THE TIMES

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The new face of tennis page 7



Victims of virtual reality page 23

TOMORROW ROBBIE WILLIAMS: Why I want to be a show-off

MICHAEL CAINE: Why I have never strayed

30p EVERY WEEKDAY

When the Mirror crack'd, *media times* pages 40-43 FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS page 49

Waiting list fund raided to pay nurses

By Jill Sherman and Roland Watson

THE Government sparked protests yesterday by announcing that it is to raid the £1 billion health service modernisation fund to finance big pay rises for nurses.

Downing Street angered health service managers when it admitted that it intended to use money earmarked for reducing waiting lists and buying high-technology equipment to top up nurses' pay.

Junior nurses are expected to receive 11 per cent increases on Monday when a £4 million recruitment campaign will be launched, while others in the profession will receive an average of 4.7 per cent.

The awards will cost £400 million more than had been set aside for health service pay, but the Government appears prepared to use money intended for other purposes to stay within Gordon Brown's public spending limits.

The Cabinet yesterday approved pay awards for the 1.3 million employees covered by the five independent pay review bodies: teachers, armed forces, nurses and midwives, doctors and dentists, and senior civil servants and judges. All of the awards will be met in full and none will be phased.

Mr Brown told colleagues that the settlement was "affordable and right", but made clear that cash would have to be found out of existing allocations.

That is likely to annoy councils, which have already said that if they have to pay teachers more than another 3 per cent, they will be unable to meet Tony Blair's pledge to cut classroom sizes.

Teachers are expected to get awards of up to 4 per cent, doctors 3.5 per cent, Armed Forces 3 to 3.5 per cent and judges and senior civil servants about 3 per cent. Downing Street admitted that nurse recruitment was seen as a priority this year, and said that teachers would not be given the same special treatment. A spokesman also made clear that only the Health Department would be allowed to draw on capital modernisation funds.

The NHS modernisation fund was set up last July specifically to address information technology, improve waiting lists, to modernise hospital departments and educate staff in new treatment patterns. When the Treasury published its report last year, it made clear that the extra money — £5 billion over three years — would be for improving health services rather than for pay awards.

Yesterday health officials said that £741 million had already been committed from £1.2 billion to be allocated in the coming financial year, and estimated that the remaining money would be almost entirely absorbed by the pay award.

Stephen Thornton, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, which represents health service employers said: "The consequence is that we won't be able to modernise the NHS next year. That is a terrible shame because everybody in the NHS staff, managers, doctors, nurses want to do that."

Ann Widdecombe, Shadow Health Secretary urged the Government to fund the award from central reserves. "Clinical services should not suffer because the Government does not pass enough money to pay for the review body recommendations," she said. "We have already seen other services suffering this winter because of the waiting list initiative. The Government says it is spending £21 billion on the NHS so where is their problem in funding the nurses pay award properly?"

The former Conservative Chancellor Kenneth Clarke said that the Government had landed itself in a dreadful mess. "They have aroused very unreal expectations, they have grossly exaggerated the amount of money they have made available to pay these pay settlements and they face a deteriorating economic situation, so they have got no room for manoeuvre."

The Liberal Democrats called for an immediate injection of £500 million from Treasury reserves to prevent a collapse in NHS morale and to save thousands of teachers' jobs.

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The Prince of Wales driving to Aberdeen airport on the first leg of his journey from the Queen Mother's Scottish estate near Balmoral to the Ritz last night

Ritz besieged by the aluminium army

By Alan Hamilton and Michael Harvey

The biggest aluminium army seen on the streets of London for some years besieged the Ritz in Piccadilly last night in the hope of snatching the picture of the decade.

More than 100 photographers, each with his jealously-guarded ladder and accompanied by reporters and broadcasting crews, crammed a 30-yard stretch of pavement on the strength of as tip-off that, after a decade of hole-in-the-corner skulduggery and pretence, the Prince of Wales would finally present himself in public with his long-standing companion Camilla Parker Bowles.

A shot of the couple together, snatched in private, could have netted a freelance photographer an estimated £2 million from magazines around the world. Last night, the word was that the Prince and his companion would quash that opportunity for individual money-making by appearing in public for all to see.

The occasion was a party to celebrate the 50th birthday of Mrs Parker Bowles's younger sister, Annabel Elliott. The Prince was hosting a charity dinner at St James's Palace less than five minutes drive, or even a brisk walk through back alleys, away. He was expected to join the Ritz party for the last hour.



Camilla Parker Bowles: party to celebrate sister's birthday

But the Ritz has many entrances, and it was feared that the couple, deterred by the huge gathering of cameramen and the wave of preliminary speculation, might be put off and leave separately and discreetly by the back door.

As early as 9am on Wednesday, the best squares of pavement directly opposite the main entrance had been "taped up" and then "laddered up" by representatives of the *Sun*, *Mirror* and *Daily Mail*. They were swiftly followed by independent photo agencies, other newspapers and TV companies. Within a few hours a straggling copse of ladders had sprung up as word spread, and by Wednesday night it had become a forest.



I gather he used to be a royal photographer

The ladder has become as much a part of the royal photographer's equipment as his flashgun and long lens. Cheap, portable and available at all good DIY stores, it not only gives the snapper a better view, but guarantees a place. Respect for the ladder system is demanded, with official stickers and unofficial warning notes such as: "Don't even think about moving these steps."

In the past, especially around Westminster, police have caused chaos and near-fistfights by confiscating ladders in over-zealous security swoops. Last night most newspapers had at least half a dozen photographers in place to cover every possible angle.

The conviction that this was the night was fuelled by an absence of any firm denial from St James's Palace, and the belief that, if the Prince was at last going to present Mrs Parker Bowles, he would do it at an occasion more associated with her than with himself.

There have been other opportunities, such as the wedding last October of Simon Sebag-Montefiore and Santa Palmer-Tomkinson at a north London synagogue, at which they arrived and departed with conspicuous separation. But to have been seen together then would have stolen the bride and groom's thunder.

Eighteen months ago it was rumoured that the Prince and Mrs Parker Bowles would make a clean breast of their relationship by appearing together at functions of the National Osteoporosis Society, with which Mrts Parker Bowles is associated, but if any such plans existed they were put firmly on ice by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Now that the first anniversary of that tragedy is well past, the couple may feel the time is right to appear together. On the other hand, the patient snappers speculated, they might equally well creep out by the back door, long and infuriating minutes apart.

Prying lenses, page 6

Volvo to close Scottish plant

Ford is to take over Volvo's car business for £3.9 billion, having apparently outbid Fiat of Italy. Volvo will now concentrate on truck and bus production — but it announced the closure of its lorry assembly plant in Irvine, Ayrshire, with the loss of at least 250 jobs .... Page 29

EU manifesto

Tony Blair is to sign up to a pan-European election manifesto that praises the euro, commits the Government to trimming the scope for the veto in EU policy-making, and ending "harmful tax competition" .... Page 2

No room to spin a doctor

By Rachel Kelly and Ben Wakeham

PETER MANDELSON may well have to start at the bottom of the ladder and work his way up again when he sells his spacious town house in Notting Hill.

He has indicated that he wants to stay in the area but the money he has to spend may mean that he can only afford a flat on the "smallish" side.

Local estate agents said that with an expected £250,000 to spend he could afford a two-bedroom upper maisonette in the neighbouring street to Northumberland Place, Courtnell Street.

But Richard Ford, from the Kensington office of the estate agents Knight Frank said that by staying in the area he would find it difficult to match the kind of capital gains he had made when he bought his house in Northumberland Place, which has seen a rise in value of around £250,000. "Basically, Mr Mandelsen will be starting again," Mr Ford said.

Should he decide to leave Notting Hill and has around £250,000 to spend, that would pay for a two-bedroom flat in one of the Georgian houses near the Commons.



The Notting Hill house that cost Mr Mandelson his job

Legal Latin outlawed pro bono publico

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

THE legal language and traditions that have characterised civil courts for decades are swept away in new set of rules published today.

On April 26, old terms such as "writ" and "plaintiff" will be replaced by "claim forms" and "claimant". Out will go familiar Latin tags such as *ex parte*, *inter partes* and *in camera*, and in will come "with notice", "without notice" and "in private". The court will give its "permission" rather than "leave" and the distinguished Anton Piller order will turn into a plain old search order.

JUSTICE THE MODERN WAY

Old term	New term
writ	claim form
pleading	statement of case
plaintiff	claimant
minor/infant	child
in camera	in private
ex parte	without notice
inter partes	with notice
next friend/guardian ad litem	litigation friend
Mareva	freezing injunction

The 800-page document published by the Lord Chancellor's Department also abandons old traditions to lay down new procedures giving judges an active role in managing cases and dictating the pace of litigation.

There will also be a new multitrack dispute system with cases allocated according to their complexity and how much money is at stake.

But solicitors are starting to panic over the tight timescale, which gives them only 60 working days to get to grips with the new system.

The rules were published in their final form for the first time on the Lord Chancellor's Department Website last week and today they will be available as a £250 book from the Stationery Office. The Office is expecting hundreds of orders and there are already fears that it will be unable to meet demand.

Frances McCarthy, vice president of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, said: "People are getting anxious and a little panicky. There is a very large amount of information to get through - and the point is that it is all starting afresh, chucking out all the existing rules."

Dave McNeill, Law Society spokesman, said: "It will be quite a struggle", but he did not expect chaos on April 26, so long as solicitors, barristers, judges and court staff "pulled very hard together".



Follow the Primarolo Rule and keep your insults general

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Maybe Gordon Brown is just a morning person. Maybe commentaries on his grumpiness overlook the simple fact that the Chancellor doesn't do afternoons.

The thought was prompted by an astonishingly cocky performance from Mr Brown at Treasury Questions yesterday — the first time in memory that they have been held before lunch. The change is a small revolution for MPs and journalists. We are used to seeing these sessions conducted in a heavy-eyelidded, post-lunch haze: the time when a little afternoon snooze beckons — to some MPs, irresistibly. Even awake, few of us are at our best. The atmosphere is often leaden, the exchanges tetchy or dull. Everyone has noticed the difference morning makes. But with none is the contrast more marked than Gordon Brown.

After morning coffee yesterday, he looked around the chamber, and — yes! Those heavy features quivered, like porridge coming to the boil, and then cracked open into a grin. Few have seen Mr Brown grin before. As Tony Blair grows more defensive, Gordon Brown seems to be cheering up. Curious. The grin persisted. Brown was in hugely confident form.

Within minutes he ripped into the Liberal Democrats, accusing their Treasury spokesman, Malcolm Bruce, of false accounting. Mr Bruce had actually welcomed Brown's spending plans. "I'm not going to take any lectures from Liberal Democrats," he roared, to a tremendous cheer from Labour. Brown grinned again. So much for detribalisation. The spring never left his step. The Tories, their Treasury spokesmen all lined up with little cue-cards and folders — earnest and devilishly clever questions, far too long, written or typed neatly — never made him sweat, though on paper Brown's Tory Shadow, Francis Maude, had him cornered on whether he was planning for sterling to shadow the euro. Unassailed, this Treasury team are not unassailable. Brown is smart. Barbara Roche is steady. Alan Milburn is a posh Geordie smartypants. Patricia Hewitt recites pap as though she were a special-needs teacher, and MPs her remedial reading class. And to Dawn Primarolo we return in a moment.

There are coconuts here waiting for Tories to take aim. But where are they? Yesterday there were just 16 present for Treasury Questions, the first of 1999. And not a single woman. On the Labour side there were 52 backbenchers, including ten women. Three of the five Treasury ministers were women. "Stupid woman!" shouted Conservative spokesman Nick Gibb at the new Paymaster General, Dawn Primarolo. It is true that Ms Primarolo is, fairly evidently, a woman; it is also arguable that she was floundering under cross-examination by Tory spokesman John Wittingdale; and it is undeniable that if this sketch were to call Mr Gibb a stupid man he might be offended, but not on behalf of the whole male sex. So Labour's fury seemed unfair.

Life, however, is unfair. And Madam Speaker is a woman. She hit the roof. "I believe you insulted half this nation's population," yelled Betty Boothroyd at the hapless Gibb, "and I am one of them!" Gibb apologised mighty fast.

Perhaps this went to Primarolo's head. Minutes later she accused the last Government of "verging on dishonesty". The Chair ordered her to withdraw. Primarolo explained she meant the Government in general, "not any individual". Following what we may now call the Primarolo Rule, Mr Gibb would be well advised in future to shout in her direction: "stupid womankind."

Senior Tories attack Hague

By Roland Watson

WILLIAM Hague came under fire from two Tory elder statesman yesterday as the party reacted badly to evidence that it had again failed to capitalise on Tony Blair's Christmas troubles.

Michael Heseltine warned that leading Tories along with businessmen were being driven out of the party over Mr Hague's "incomprehensible" European policy.

In a separate attack, Kenneth Clarke cautioned the party against believing it could close the gap on Labour by relying on a new breed of spin-doctors.

The twin criticism came the day after the after the latest Mori poll in *The Times* showed the Tories have fallen further behind Labour despite the Government's "black Christmas". Their comments are likely to re-fuel the internal Tory debate about the influence of Cabinet right-wingers.

Ann Widdecombe tried to calm Tory jitters yesterday, saying that "the steadiest of nerves" was required rather than a rush of "quick fixes".

"If we show steady nerve, there will be everything to play for," she told a Westminster lunch.

Peter Riddell, page 13
Mary Ann Sieghart, page 24

Blair commits Britain to the euro dream

By Charles Bremner in Brussels and Philip Webster

TONY BLAIR will today sign up to a pan-European election manifesto that strongly praises the euro and commits the Government to trimming the veto in EU policy-making and Labour to ending "harmful tax competition".

The Prime Minister travels to Vienna for a meeting of European socialist party leaders to endorse a programme primarily drafted by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, blending standard new Labour goals with the pro-European rhetoric of continental leftists.

Mr Blair's stance provoked Tory accusations last night that he was "selling Britain short".

The manifesto, for the June elections to the European Parliament, unites Labour and the 19 other social democrat parties of the EU in 21 pledges for "a new beginning for the European Union".

But unlike previous Euro-election manifestos, which carried British reservations, Labour has inserted no qualifications over the single currency and had embraced the mainstream thinking of the left-wing parties that now run 11 of the EU's 15 governments.

The draft says: "The euro should make a significant contribution to promoting sustainable growth, low inflation and high levels of employment. It is in the interest of all member states, whether members of the single currency or not, that the euro is a success. A sound euro will protect Europe against the destabilising pressures of currency speculation, allow for lower interest rates and contribute to a reformed and more stable financial world system.

"It will also increase the purchasing power of the consumer through greater price stability, reduced costs for business and improve competition ... We commit ourselves to ensuring that the single currency achieves a smooth introduction and provides growth, employment and stability."

In recent weeks Mr Cook has been portrayed as wanting the Government to take a more positive stance on joining the euro in the run-up to the next election, and the manifesto is the one of most unequivocal endorsements of the single currency yet given by the Government.

However, the Government's policy of ruling out British membership of the euro before the next Parliament is not about to change and Mr Cook has told friends that he is not seeking a change in the policy.

Attacking the manifesto passages on the euro, the veto and tax harmonisation, the Tories last night accused Mr Blair of selling Britain short in Europe. Michael Trend, the shadow Europe Minister, said: "Time and time again they have given the British public false assurances. When speaking at home Tony Blair claims he is standing up for Britain. But when seated round the discussion tables of Europe, Labour are carried by the left-wing tide."

The document was drawn up by Mr Cook and Henri Nallet of the French Socialist party. Adopting the slogan of Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, it says: "We say 'yes' to a market economy, but 'no' to a market society."

□ John Gummer, the former Tory Cabinet minister, said yesterday that Britain would lose all influence over what happened in Europe if it stayed outside the single currency. Mr Gummer, one of the few euro-enthusiasts on the Tory benches, also accused Rupert Murdoch of encouraging his newspapers to set an anti-European agenda rather than report what was actually happening.



BILL ALLEN

Hoo's got a bargain?

By Marcus Binney

LUTON HOO, the most magnificent Edwardian stately home in Britain, has been sold to an anonymous buyer after languishing on the market for nearly two years. The price is believed to be well under the original asking price of £25 million for the house, stables, 1,500 acres of parkland and 47 cottages; possibly as low as £8 million. The enormous asking price matched the debts left by Nicholas Phillips, the owner of the estate, who committed suicide in 1991 after a scheme to build a business park on the estate collapsed.

Luton Hoo formed the spectacular backdrop to the closing scene in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. The original Robert Adam house was handsomely remodelled early this century by the architects Mevès & Davis who designed the Ritz Hotel in Piccadilly.

Interested parties are believed to have included the Crown Prince of Kuwait and the German businessman Dieter Klostermann, whose CCA Group runs Brocket Hall as a conference centre. Also mentioned are Bill Gates who last year was part of an investment consortium that bought out Cliveden plc.

The magnificent Wernher collection, previously housed at Luton Hoo, is likely to go on display at Somerset House in London.

Jet lands on watchdog's desk

By Roland Watson and Jill Sherman

THE public-spending watchdog was last night called in to investigate ministers' travel expenses after Gordon Brown refused to say whether he had cost taxpayers £18,000 by chartering a jet.

Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, referred the matter to the National Audit Office as Downing Street tried to head off a growing row by saying the Government spent less on ministerial travel than the Tories had done in office.

Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General, is now likely to investigate the whole issue of government travel expenses in the wake of a spate of revelations about ministers spurning subsonic travel to fly by Concorde.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said the concentration of media attention on such issues was becoming "ridiculous" and that it would be up to ministers individually to decide whether to answer such inquiries.

The Treasury stonewalled on claims that Mr Brown had chartered a jet from Africa to Bangkok to travel from a Commonwealth finance ministers meeting to talks on the South East Asian econonic crisis. A spokesman said: "Our ministers take the view that we are not going into detail of travel arrangments, they have to get from A to B frequently all around the world and that is done in the quickest and most efficient way possible."

The Treasury's stance was undermined when Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, released a blow-by-blow account of his time in Barbados in November to attend the Commonwealth health ministers meeting. Dismissing media inquiries as the stuff of gossip, Mr Dobson insisted he was right to attend, swapping thoughts with his counterparts on containing malaria and Aids.

He said: "I travelled business class both ways and stayed at the conference hotel. On the trip out, I re-drafted our White Paper on tobacco. I slept all night on the way back." He added that he had left a day early.

Mr Dobson's statement was an example of what No 10 promised would be an "aggressive" response to the issue, which had flared into life with tales of high living at five-star hotels by Jack Cunningham, the Prime Minister's so-called Cabinet "enforcer".



NEWS IN BRIEF

Teacher cleared of indecent assault

A teacher at an independent girls' school accused of having an affair with a 14-year-old pupil was cleared yesterday of indecent assault. Daniel Angadi, 54, a father of two, of Leytonstone, East London, hugged his second wife, a former pupil at the school, after he was aquitted of all five charges after two hours' deliberation by a jury at Southwark Crown Court. He was alleged to have had illicit sex with the girl between January 1985 and June 1996.

He admitted that he and Miss X, who is now 28, had an affair but said that it started after she completed her A levels and was about to go to university. He was confronted with the allegations last April and was immediately suspended from the school, where he had taught for 25 years.

Battery hen cage ban

Battery hen cages could be abolished throughout Europe after the European Parliament voted yesterday to ban their use by January 1, 2009. Almost 90 per cent of British eggs come from battery hens, and the percentage is higher in the EU. Although goverment ministers can ignore the Parliament's wishes, the vote by MEPs will greatly increase the moral pressure for battery cages to be phased out. Egg producers said they would demand compensation if they were forced to switch to more expensive free-range systems.

NUT goes for a zone

The National Union of Teachers announced plans to apply to join forces withj the Oxfordshire Education Authority in running one of the Government's Education Action Zones. The move is a radical departure for the union, many of whose members view business involvement in the zones as a form of creeping privatisation. At a conference on the zones, Doug McAvoy, the NUT general secretary, said the union's involvement would act as a bulwark against government efforts to sideline local education authorities.

Adams up for the Cup

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, will be among the fans from Northern Ireland watching Ulster play the French team Colomiers in the final of rugby union's European Cup in Dublin tomorrow, his party confirmed. David Trimble, First Minister of Northern Ireland, and Seamus Mallon, Deputy First Minister, are also expected to be at the match, which has attracted huge interest. Support for the Ulster team crosses the sectarian divide. Mo Mowlam and Mary McAleese, the Irish President, will be in the crowd.

Husband tells of lover's fatal attraction

'Jenny grabbed me by the hand and led me upstairs'

THE husband of Kathryn Linaker, who was knifed and bludgeoned to death by a colleague in a drama society, told a court yesterday of his sex sessions with the woman who killed her.

Chris Linaker, 35, a former computer trainer, said at Chester Crown Court that he fell in love with Jenny Cupit, 24, a fellow actor at a local drama society, and that they enjoyed a passionate relationship for more than a year.

They would meet regularly to have sex at each other's homes in Warrington, Cheshire, in the houses of friends and relatives, in the open air in Delamere Forest and Alton Towers and once in a multi-storey car park in Blackpool. They filmed themselves in one daytime encounter in a hotel room and, on at least two occasions, indulged in sexual threesomes, once with Mr Linaker's brother-in-law Neil Alcock while Mrs Linaker was out at work and with Cupit's husband, Nick.

The court heard that Mr Linaker had been pestering his lover to set up a threesome with herself and female friend but this date was abandoned when it clashed with the birth of his second child, Holly.

As the affair continued in a welter of love letters, snatched telephone calls and Valentine cards, Cupit began urging Mr Linaker to leave his wife and two children and run off with her to Canada. He became concerned that she would tell his wife about their affair.

Cupit, a hairdresser, is alleged to have murdered Mrs Linaker, 33, in a fit of jealous rage last April at her home in Penketh, Warrington, stabbing and clubbing her to death with a kitchen knife, a carving knife and a heavy bottle.

She denies murdering Mrs Linaker, a deputy headmistress at St James School, in Haydock, and an author of educational guides, but has pleaded guilty to manslaughter due to diminished responsibility, a plea contested by the Crown.

Mr Linake told the court, under questioning from Alex Carlile, QC, for the prosecution, that it was Cupit who took the lead in their affair.

He and his wife, then a successful teacher, met through the Warrington Centenary Operatic and Dramatic Society, which became the hub of their social lives, through which they met others in their circle, including Nick and Jenny Cupit. The two couples, who both had young children, be-



Chris Linaker, Cupit's lover, videoed their three-in-a-bed sex session in the spare bedroom with Neil Allcock, below



came friends. They had known each other for a "few years" before his wife's death, he said. Mr Carlile asked Mr Linaker, who worked as a computer trainer, whether the relationship between his wife and Cupit was one where intimate confidences would be expected to be exchanged. He replied: "No."

Mr Linaker admitted that he began the affair with Cupit early in 1997. She told him that she had feelings for someone in the drama society and, within seconds, had admitted it was him. He insisted that he told her it was not a good idea to take their relationship further.

Mr Linaker said he first had sex with the young mother of two in January 1997 when he went to her house in Orford, near Warrington, during the day. She had sex in her bedroom.

"We were talking in the kitchen and Jenny Cupit put her coffee down, grabbed me by the hand and took me upstairs," he said. Mr Carlile observed that "it does not seem as if you protested too much."

They had sex often, more than weekly. They made love at their houses, at the homes of Cupit's in-laws, at her friend home, in the open air in the Delamere Forest, beside the theme park at Alton Towers and once in a multi-storey car park on a day trip to Blackpool. Once Cupit booked a hotel room at the Novotel, off the M6 on the way to Swinton, Manchester, where they met and made love several times.

Mr Linaker admitted that, at his instigation, he videotaped themselves having sex using his father's camera. Mr Carlile asked: "What was Jenny's reaction? Did she raise any objection at all?" He replied: "No."

Mr Carlile asked: "Was there any other occasion when you videoed yourself and Jenny having sexual intercourse together?" "At my home," replied Mr Linaker. "Had she shown any reluctance to have it videoed on that occasion?" "Not at all." Mr Carlile asked: "Did she watch it?" "Yes, with me" The barrister continued: "What was her reaction to watching you and her having sexual intercourse?" Mr Linaker replied: "She found it exciting."

Cupit, from the dock, interjected: "You liar". Mr Linaker described two occasions when they invited a third man to join them for sex. He said that Cupit made it clear that a threesome was one of her fantasies so he invited his brother-in-law, Neil Alcock, to join them.

They met on a weekday at his home while Mrs Linaker was working at school. The threesome videoed the hour-long encounter from a camera set up on a tripod in the corner of the spare bedroom. Mr Linaker said Cupit had oral sex with both men. When they replayed the tape, she seemed to enjoy it, he said.

In early 1998 Mr Linaker went to Cupit's home in Warrington for another threesome; this time with her husband Nick. The three had sex while the couple's two children were asleep upstairs. During the relationship she spoke of her desire for him to father her child. She was distressed when her family doctor told her she had miscarried after a short pregnancy. Later, it emerged that Cupit was upset when she discovered Kathryn Linaker was pregnant with baby Holly. Mr Carlile asked: "Did Jenny ever express feelings towards your wife Kathy?" "Yes," replied Mr Linaker. "She was jealous. The main reason was she was my partner. Kathy was the one I went home to, spent weekends with; that sort of thing."

Mr Linaker said that his wife had warned him that she felt Cupit might "move in on him". Once Cupit arrived unannounced at their detached home where she assured Mrs Linaker that she had no such intention. The conversation left Kathy confused, said Mr Linaker.

Mr Linaker said there had been in incident in an unlit Warrington street in March last year which upset Cupit. She said that she had been attacked by a man who grabbed her from behind, torn her blouse and put his hand down her trousers. He had believed her at first but later was not so sure, he told the court.

Mr Linaker said that he had bought Cupit a vibrator as a sex toy at a shop in Manchester. She appeared thrilled with it, he said, and they had used on a "few occasions".

Mr Linaker said that several weeks before his wife's death Cupit appeared more aggressive and angry.

During cross-examination Adrian Fulford, QC, for the defence, suggested that Mr Linaker was drawn to Cupit for sexual reasons. He described Mr Linaker as a man with a taste for pornography, videos and sex aids and that he had kept up the affair, right up until the day before his wife's death, for his own sexual gratification."

Mr Linaker agreed that in one card he had written: "To the sexiest, tastiest most unnecessarily insecure woman I know and I know you very much, your special friend."

Mr Fulford asked: "At the same time you told her over and over again you loved her, when she asked you seriously if you would leave your family, you didn't answer immediately. You paused before you said no as if you were thinking about it seriously?" "No," replied Mr Linaker. "I paused because I was taken aback."

Mr Carlile asked: "Was it discussed from time to time?" Mr Linaker replied: "Regularly in letters she used to send me." The barrister went on: "Did you ever lead her to believe you would leave your wife?" Mr Linaker said: "No."

The trial continues.

'MY FEELINGS ARE MORE THAN SEXUAL'

The jury was shown the only handwritten letter that Mr Linaker sent to his lover, although he received many from her.

It began: "I have finally done it. I have put pen to paper. I am not sure what to write, of course..." But he goes on to say he loves her, misses her and that she was assured a special place in his heart: "My feelings for you are more than just sexual," he wrote. "I am sure it should please you thinking of me doing naughty things to myself while thinking of you. I am certainly making up new ways of making love to you in my mind ... In the beginning the thought of somebody like you finding me attractive, I found incredibly erotic. Since then I have grown to love you."

It was signed: "I love you always, Your friend"



Jenny Cupit, accused of murdering her lover's wife, leaving court yesterday. She made first move in an affair that led to death, the jury was told



Kathy Linaker warned her husband about Cupit

Art academy's 'public face' blames lover for sacking

By Diana Blamires

A PROMOTIONS manager at the Royal Academy of Art was sacked after an affair with her boss ended, an industrial tribunal heard yesterday.

Miriam Sassoon, described as the gallery's public face, was said to have been "bullied and shouted at" by Zack Malcolmson.

Miss Sassoon, who was subcontracted to run promotions for exhibitions at the academy, said that her life was made hell by her former lover. He demeaned her in front of colleagues and gave her a written warning when she complained about him, she said.

The 24-year-old was sacked last August for "unprofessional behaviour" when she objected to the warning. Her employers say that she started a whispering campaign against Malcolmson and called him a bastard in front of staff.

Miss Sassoon told the Central London Tribunal that Mr Malcolmson, the academy's London site manager, forced her to apologise to a colleague who had made her cry, snubbed her at company





Malcomson and Sassoon: had an affair, tribunal told

drinks evenings and ignored her views, even when they were conducting joint interviews.

She is claiming sexual discrimination against Arts Communications and Technology, which employed her and Mr Malcolmson. The company was used by the Royal Academy to promote its exhibitions and to produce audio guides. Her role was to promote CD-Roms and audio-guides. Visitors to exhibitions would see her to acquire the guides.

Miss Sassoon said: "When I first joined the company, Zack would not speak to me, but he was friendly to everyone else.

"My brother died that year and I had a few days off work. He started to talk to me after that."

The couple started a relationship eight months after she joined the company. Miss Sassoon told the tribunal: "We slept together in Christmas 1997. In late March, Zack and myself went to Amsterdam and, about three weeks later, I ended the relationship because we weren't communicating. We tried to be friends thereafter, but Zack took to ignoring me." After that, Miss Sassoon said, Mr Malcolmson picked faults with everything she did.

"I was shouted at and bullied and told I was behaving unprofessionally. I put in a grievance which was ignored and was given a written warning for unprofessional behaviour.

"At one point he called me unprofessional in front of staff at the Royal Academy and in front of other promoters, which obviously upset me. It was bombastic."

Naomi Ellenbogen, representing Arts Communication and Technology, said: "The reason she got a written warning was for smoking outside the gallery, conducting a whispering campaign against Mr Malcolmson and shouting and swearing at him at company parties."

She told Miss Sassoon: "You were the face of the company which the public first meet when they walk in the gallery. It was essential that you behave in a professional manner."

The case was adjourned until April 22.

PC arrested brother in toy feud

By Peter Foster

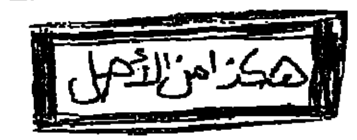
A POLICEMAN arrested his brother for swearing after a ten-year disagreement over a rare Dinky toy reached boiling point, a court was told yesterday.

PC Roy Lewis-Tatton, 33, arrested his brother Paul, 39, after a row last October. Nottingham magistrates dismissed the case after hearing of the feud. They heard that the pair had hardly spoken since the day Paul Tatton accused Roy, a toy collector, of trying to trick his son into parting with the valuable toy in exchange for a cheap Action Man.

On the night of his arrest, Paul Tatton told the court, PC Lewis Tatton had arrived at his house in Nottingham alleging that he, Paul, had assaulted his 18-year-old son, Carl. The teenager told the court that his uncle had offered to charge his father with assault, but he had declined. He added that his uncle had seemed intent on getting his father charged. "My dad had just been trying to restrain me in the house because of my temper. I was just angry. My father hadn't really hit me."

Paul Tatton said his younger brother then turned to go back to the patrol car, saying that there was a difference between "chastisement and assault" and promising that "the next time I will personally come and arrest you". Paul said he was arrested after he tried to explain that he had not assaulted his son. At this point, the court heard, PC Lewis-Tatton handcuffed his brother and bundled him into the car, telling him he was being arrested for aggressive and abusive behaviour towards a police officer. Yesterday Paul Tatton said that he believed the row over the Thunderbirds 2 spaceship, worth an estimated £200, was the real reason for his arrest.

Finding Paul Tatton not guilty of using threatening behaviour, magistrates also awarded him £1,000 costs.



Trimble demands action over Collins

Government is urged not to turn a blind eye after IRA informer's murder, reports **Martin Fletcher**

DAVID TRIMBLE accused the IRA yesterday of breaking its ceasefire by murdering Eamon Collins, the IRA defector. He demanded that the Government take action.

Chief Inspector Eddie Graham, who is leading the murder investigation, said that Collins had suffered an "horrendous death". His injuries were so appalling that the police advised his widow, Bernie, not to view the body.

"It is more akin to a crime indicative of that carried out by primitive cavemen than it is of a society entering the 21st century. It was absolutely dreadful," he said. Collins was killed on a country lane near his home in Newry before dawn on Wednesday. He died from multiple stab wounds and bludgeoning of the head.

"It's fairly clear who murdered him — presumably the same people who burnt his house and were responsible for the hit-and-run attack on him a couple of years ago, and that is the IRA and particularly the South Armagh IRA," said Mr Trimble, Northern Ireland's First Minister.

"This is yet another breach of the ceasefire and I wonder what the Secretary of State is going to say about it . . . It's important the Government shows through its actions that it is *not* turning a blind eye."

Mr Trimble would not specify what he wanted the Government to do, but on Wednesday night he backed an unsuccessful Conservative motion to halt terrorist prisoner releases until IRA violence stopped. Other senior Unionists said that the murder had strengthened the case for barring Sinn Fein from government until the IRA began disarming.



Collins: he died from multiple stab wounds

Mrs Collins told yesterday's *Irish News*: "They finally got him." Her husband had got up at 4.30am to paint over hostile graffiti near their house before taking his dogs for a walk. "I knew when I got up and Eamon wasn't there. I just got a knot in my stomach.

"Although you knew there was always the possibility it could happen, and you felt you were prepared for it, you just can't be . . . We had talked about the escalation in the intimidation, and it wasn't just aimed at him. It was aimed at the whole family.

"We had talked of moving elsewhere, if only for the children's sake."

Collins, who will be buried today, told the *Belfast News Letter* the day before his death that he had terminal heart disease. "I don't know what will kill me first — my enemies or my illness," he said.

Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein's president, called the murder "regrettable".

He said that Collins had "many enemies in many, many, many places", but insisted that republicans felt no sense of triumph at his killing.

☐ Terry Madden, 52, a charity worker from Monasteraden in Sligo, died from gunshot wounds to his legs yesterday, in what appears to be the first punishment killing in the Irish Republic since the 1994 IRA ceasefire.

In Dungannon, Co Tyrone, a Roman Catholic family escaped injury when a pipe-bomb was thrown through their kitchen window.



SEAN PAGET

Michelle Cadwell, left, and Kate Brown get reading as the first books arrive

Children see their tokens bear fruit

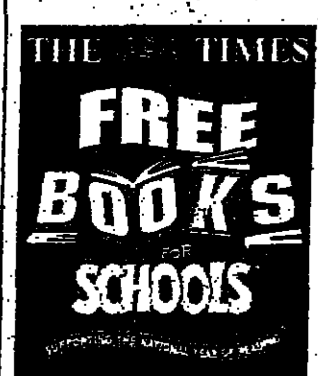
By Hannah Betts

THE first delivery in the Free Books for Schools scheme was met with delight at Westcroft Special School in Wolverhampton yesterday. Children mobbed the delivery man and tore open the boxes in a race to be first to their new books.

Sue Commander, the school's literacy co-ordinator, said: "Now that they're all pulling together to collect tokens, our children think of reading as a real pleasure."

Most of the tokens have come from the children themselves. Pupils are keen to gather up tokens from their parents' newspapers, many coming in with fistfuls at a time.

James Lawrence, 12, said:



"The books you are giving us are better than we had before and more fun in lessons. We are doing more reading every day." Miss Commander said her pupils had been swept into a collecting frenzy after their appearance in *The Times* earlier this month for being the first school to place an order. Since then, Westcroft has amassed 3,000 tokens.

Can your school beat the token-saving total of Westcroft? Call *The Times* Free Books for Schools hotline and tell us about your school's progress on 0171-895-9018 (office hours only). Throughout February, 223 Asda stores will be doubling all Free Books for Schools tokens as customers pass through the checkout.

Token, page 49

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trial date for murder charge GP

A family doctor charged with killing eight female patients was yesterday committed for trial on two alleged murders. Harold Shipman, 52, of Mottram in Longdendale, Greater Manchester, is charged with murdering Jean Lilley, 59, in April 1997, and Irene Turner, 67, in July 1996.

He is scheduled to appear at Manchester Crown Court on March 1 for a plea and directions hearing on all the charges against him. Mr Shipman, who has a practice in Hyde, has already pleaded not guilty to the murders of four former patients.

Killer gets life

A killer trapped by his earprints was jailed for lifeby an Old Bailey judge for raping and strangling Yvonne Killian, 22, in Erith, southeast London. Karl Stirk, 26, had listened at a window before breaking into her flat.

Pots of money

A collection of more than 120 cookery books dating from the early 1600s fetched £59,000 at Sotheby's in London. It included a rare, 1861 first edition of Mrs Beeton's *Book of Household Management*, which sold for £1,200.

Doorstep killing

A teenager shot dead after answering the door may have been mistaken for another man. Leon McKinlay, 18, of Old Trafford, Manchester, was hit several times in the chest. Police said victim may have known the real target.

Protester evicted

Margaret Jones, 49, the university lecturer who gave up her job to join anti-roads protesters, has been evicted from a warehouse where she was single-handedly holding up work on the £30 million Avon ring road at Warmley, near Bristol.

Carey's mission

The Archbishop of Canterbury is in Damascus for the first visit by a head of the Anglican Church to Syria. "I am convinced the world needs ever-deepening relationships between Christianity and Islam," Dr George Carey said.

Meningitis death

Paul Caffrey, 12, has died after contracting meningitis on an adventure training course in North Wales. Seventeen fellow pupils from Widnes, Cheshire, who shared his dormitory are receiving antibiotics.

Hands-on chief

Norman Bettison, 42, the Chief Constable of Merseyside, leapt from his official car after an awards ceremony to chase and help to arrest a suspected thief that he saw fleeing from a shop's security guard.

Chilly landing

Shetland bird-lovers hope to send a cattle egret, which has been found 2,000 miles north of its usual habitat, back to the Algarve. The birds have visited southern England, but have never been seen in Shetland.

CORRECTION

Yale University's collection of British art was donated by Paul Mellon, and not by Paul Getty as stated in an article (January 27) on Denver Art Museum.





Antonio Banderas as the avenging bandit and Sir Anthony Hopkins as Zorro in the 1998 film *The Mask of Zorro*

Inquisition unmasks Zorro as Irishman

New evidence traces swashbuckling Wexford ladies' man to Mexico via Spain, Richard Owen writes

AN ITALIAN historian has found new evidence in the secret archives of the Holy Inquisition unmasking the original Zorro, the dashing hero of countless swashbuckling films set against the background of rebellion against Spanish rule in Mexico and California.

In the latest film, a box office hit starring Sir Anthony Hopkins, Antonio Banderas and Catherine Zeta-Jones, Zorro is a Spanish aristocrat who leads a double life.

But according to Fabio Troncarelli, Professor of History at Viterbo University, there is "detailed proof" in the closely guarded Inquisition archives — which the Vatican has gradually begun to make more freely available to scholars — that the real Zorro, a masked swordsman who evades capture and inspires downtrodden Mexicans with the hope of independence, was an Irishman from Wexford called William Lamport.

Professor Troncarelli said there were "copious references" in the secret archives to Lamport, who was born in Ireland in 1615 and died at the stake in Mexico City in 1659. "He led a double life like Zorro, and had a thick red beard and flashing eyes," Professor Troncarelli said. "He was quite a womaniser, and led a life even more adventurous than anything the screenwriters have dreamt up."

Professor Troncarelli, 50, said he had spent half his life investigating the Zorro myth, using papers held in Madrid, Dublin, Rome and Mexico City.

"But the key information is buried in the records of the trials of suspected heretics and subversives conducted by the Inquisition," he said. "They were meticulous. The name of Lamport kept coming up."

He said that Lamport's fame as a popular hero in Central America was "still reverberating in the 19th century, 200 years after his death".

According to the Inquisition records, Lamport was born into a "noble Irish family" and was educated by Jesuits in Dublin and London. But he ran away to sea after allegedly voicing "anti-English sentiments" and fell in with a gang of pirates. Still in his early twenties, Lamport arrived in Spain, where he Hispanicised his name to "Guillen Lombardo".

He fought in Spain's 17th-century wars against the French, and his bravery and skill came to the attention of the Duke of Olivares, chief minister, until 1643, at the court of Philip IV of Spain (who reigned from 1621-1665).

At 25 Lamport, who had begun to acquire a reputation as a ladies' man as well as a swordsman, was sent by Olivares to Mexico to escape a scandal after he had seduced and abandoned a Spanish noblewoman.

It was in Mexico City that Lamport, or "Lombardo", perfected his double life. Officially he moved in the highest circles and became engaged to a noblewoman called Antonia Turcios. But he had many other lovers, acted as a spy for Olivares, and assumed a false identity to befriend local Indian tribes, learning their healing skills and "dabbling in astrology".

It was this which eventually brought him to the attention of the Inquisition, which accused Lamport of "conspiring against Spain to liberate the Indians and the black slaves and set himself up as king of an independent Mexico".

He spent ten years in prison while the investigation dragged on, but (like Sir Anthony in the film) managed to escape, always keeping one step ahead of his pursuers.

He even returned to Mexico City, emerging from his hiding place at night to plaster the city walls with posters mocking the Inquisition and revealing its secrets.

Lamport's luck ran out because of his "inability to resist a pretty woman", Professor Troncarelli told *Corriere della Sera*. According to a letter dated 1647 from the Bishop of Mexico to Philip IV, who asked to be kept informed about the hunt for "Lombardo", he was found in bed with the wife of Marquis Lope Diez de Cadereyta, the Viceroy of Mexico.

Lamport was jailed for a further seven years and then condemned to burn at the stake. "But he cheated the Inquisition one last time," Professor Troncarelli said. "Before the flames were lit, he managed to strangle himself with the rope used to tie him to the stake."

Lamport did not metamorphise into Zorro until 1872, when Vicente Palacio Riva, a retired Mexican general, tried his hand at "an historical romance in the style of Dumas's *Three Musketeers* entitled *The Memoirs of an Impostor*.

The hero of the book is called Guillen Lombardo but leads a double life as a nobleman named Diego de la Vega, plotting by night with a "secret society" to "overthrow Spanish rule and the power of the Inquisition".

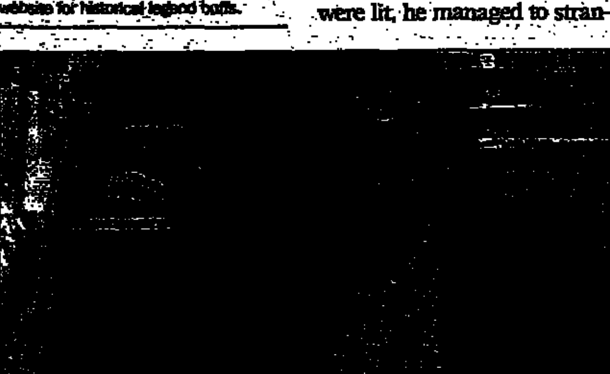
Like the real Zorro, De la Vega is also betrayed in the end by his weakness for women. In 1919 Johnston McCulley, a New York journalist, reworked the tale, giving Diego de la Vega his famous mask, and the following year the first film, *The Mark of Zorro*, starring Douglas Fairbanks, appeared.

http://www.spe.sony.com/movies/zorro — Mask of Zorro movie website.
http://www.legends.dm.net/ — The website for historical legend buffs.





Faces of Zorro: A portrait of William Lamport, and Tyrone Power in the 1940 Hollywood film *The Mark of Zorro*



Professor Troncarelli, a devotee of the Zorro myth

Dublin scholar disputes theory

BY AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

AN IRISH historian last night confirmed the existence of William Lamport but was sceptical of the claims made about his life by the Italian scholar.

Declan Downey, a history lecturer at University College Dublin, dismissed suggestions that Lamport was a swashbuckling youth who went to sea to escape English rule. Dr Downey's research suggests that the young Lamport was born into an affluent Irish family but grew up in Spain as an honorary member of the royal court.

The Lamports were a wealthy landowning family on the outskirts of Wexford. They lived happily under British rule until the late 16th century when London demanded that Irish landowners convert to Protestantism. Many families, including the Lamports, rebelled and sided with Catholic Spain in the Battle of Kinsale in 1602.

The Spaniards, backed by the Irish, defeated the British. Many Irish, including the Lamports, fled Ireland and took up refuge in Spain where they were granted entry to the royal court. Many were given honorary titles. Some travelled further and went to South America.

Dr Downey believes that William Lamport, the man now labelled as Zorro, spent much of his childhood in Spain with his emigrant parents. He may have returned to Ireland to be educated by Jesuits in Dublin, a common practice among the Irish Roman Catholic gentry living abroad.

"What this Italian man has come up with is very interesting, but I must admit to being a little sceptical about his research and would like to read it myself," said Dr Downey.

How they kept the prying lenses out

By Alan Hamilton



The picture that immortalised their early romance: the Prince and Camilla Shand at Windsor Great Park

FOR years, the only pictures in newspaper libraries of the Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles together have been images from another age.

She was Miss Camilla Shand then, and he a bachelor naval officer with a penchant for polo when on shore leave. Their brief romance in the 1970s is immortalised in a picture of them gazing lovingly at each other in a break between chukkas, standing by a stout oak tree suitably carved with other lovers' initials.

There are pictures, too, of the Prince as godfather at the christening of the Parker Bowleses' son, Tom, but they are merely family snapshots without sexual chemistry or concealed agenda.

When their resumed relationship, now between two married people, became common knowledge in the 1990s, they went to enormous lengths to conceal it from prying lenses. But they were not always successful: in 1990 a freelance cameraman snapped them climbing into a Range Rover together at Balmoral.

They confined themselves largely to Gloucestershire and the safety of Highgrove. But in October 1995 they suddenly adopted a high-risk strategy by jointly attending a 50th birthday party at the Ritz for Mrs Parker Bowles's friend Lady Sarah Keswick. They were careful, however, to arrive and leave separately; neither was yet divorced.

Photographers thought their best chance of catching the couple together was at the Beaufort Hunt, of which both were enthusiastic members. But the Prince and Mrs Parker Bowles developed a complex and carefully planned ritual; she would attend in the early part of the day and canter away to lunch. Within an hour, the Prince would appear for an afternoon's sport.

Mrs Parker Bowles has been remarkably tolerant of the cameramen who regularly stake out the hunt, but they now have more than enough pictures of her on her own, mounted or unmounted.

When the Prince held a 50th birthday party for Mrs Parker Bowles in 1997, he remained safely within his own four walls. But cameramen waiting at the gate were given a surprising amount of co-operation by police and security men to photograph the star guest's arrival.

There seemed, for a time, a discreet campaign to introduce Mrs Parker Bowles formally to the public. In April 1997 she hosted a charity event for the National Osteoporosis Society and allowed *Hello!* magazine to photograph her there in return for a hefty donation. But then Diana, Princess of Wales died in a Paris underpass, and everything was put on ice for a long time to come.

When she returned the previous year's compliment and hosted Charles's 50th birthday party at Highgrove last November, she again made sure that her car slowed to a crawl to allow the cameramen a good view of her revealing green silk and velvet outfit, her dazzling hairdo, and her sapphire and diamond jewellery ensemble.

A few days earlier, she had attended a birthday function for the Prince at Hampton Court Palace, and although she danced with her beau in front of his sons, she came and went with the utmost discretion by a side entrance.

The same discretion was employed last October when the couple attended the society wedding of Santa Palmer-Tomkinson at a North London synagogue. They arrived half an hour apart, sat in different rows during the service, and left in separate motorcades for the same destination — a reception at the Ritz. Once again the photographers were cheated of the one picture to die for, the one with a guaranteed sale to newspapers and magazines around the world. Once again, they would have to wait to make their fortunes.

Lily Langtry, one of Bertie's *chaise-longue* conquests

Dirty Bertie was spared the tabloids

IT WAS a mistress, they say, who killed Prince Albert (Alan Hamilton writes). Not, needless to say, his own, but the first horizontal acquaintance of his son Bertie, the Prince of Wales and future Edward VII.

Bertie had been sent to Dublin in 1861 for gunnery training, but discovered instead the delights of a warm Irish actress. When he was ordered back to his rooms at Trinity College, Cambridge, his father took the train to give him the talking-to of his life, caught a dose of typhoid fever, and was dead at the age of 42.

His son proceeded to a long and diverting career on the chaise-longue. At his coronation in 1902 he invited several of his ex-mistresses to witness the event from a balcony in Westminster Abbey which the press duly christened "Edward's loose box".

The upper classes knew all about Bertie's liaisons with Alice Keppel, Lily Langtry, the Countess of Warwick and the rest, and the word filtered down through society. But the tabloid press had not yet been invented in its present form, and the technology to print photographs in newspapers did not exist.

Edward VII had the good fortune to have an understanding wife in Queen Alexandra, who would never have dreamt of whingeing to the media about an overcrowded marriage. Besides, he was an avuncular fellow, admired for taking care of his past amours long after the passion had died.

Not only did the press draw a veil over his boudoir excursions, they politely declined to mention Edward's other, and stranger, peccadillo. He was extraordinarily fond of chasing fire engines, and had a deal with the captain of the London Fire Brigade who would inform him as soon as a big blaze had been reported in the capital. The heir to the throne would be there, helping with the hoses at dead of night, much as the present Prince of Wales used to make secret midnight visits to the capital's homeless.

The case of Edward VIII was altogether different, because his relationship with Mrs Simpson became much more politicised. The British press, led by Beaverbrook's omnipotent Daily Express and by the hugely influential Times, maintained a conspiracy of silence over the King's affair.

The foreign press, however, were having a field day. When Mrs Simpson's divorce petition was moved from London to Ipswich in the hope that no one would notice the hearing, British newspapers blandly reported a list of names, while one American journal shouted from a banner headline: "King's Moll Reno'd In Wolsey's Home Town".

While the present Prince of Wales has been at pains to keep his relationship with Alice Keppel's great-great-granddaughter in the shadows, his predecessor did much to push Mrs Simpson to the fore. When she visited Balmoral her name, at his insistence, appeared in the Court Circular.



Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson: treated discreetly

Korda in legal fight to escape ban over drug test

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

PETR KORDA, the Czech tennis star, should not be forced to defend himself twice against doping allegations, the High Court in London was told yesterday.

Korda, the 1998 Australian Open champion, wants Mr Justice Lightman to stop the International Tennis Federation appealing against the decision of a tribunal not to ban him. The player tested positive for an anabolic steroid after losing to Tim Henman at Wimbledon last year.

The Czech player, who was not in court, escaped a one-year ban in December when the committee, appointed by the federation, ruled that there were "exceptional circumstances". Korda claimed that he did not know how the drug was present in his urine sample, an explanation that allowed him to get off on a technicality.

The federation wants to impose a ban by taking the case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, which deals with complex drugs issues. Korda, who had been injured before Wimbledon, was found positive for nandrolone, the same steroid found last week in the urine of Dougie Walker, the European 200 metres champion.

Charles Flint, QC, for Korda, said that the federation, under its own doping regulations, had no right in law to appeal against the decision, which was "final and binding" on both sides. "We say that argument is incompatible with the wording of the anti-doping programme.

"The programme is designed to provide for speedy and final determination of disputes as to allegations of doping before an independent expert committee." The judge is expected to give his verdict this afternoon.

Spice girls of tennis take a beating

The pretty young things are finding it tough against a hard-hitting newcomer, reports Alix Ramsay

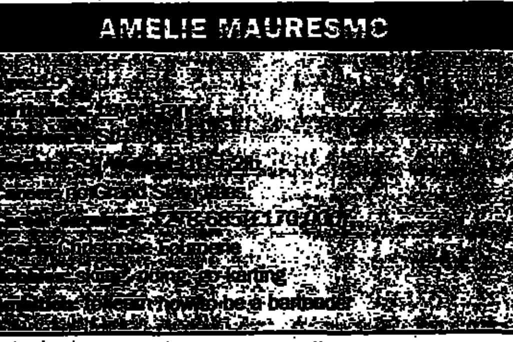


Martina Hingis, the next to take on Mauresmo

MARTINA HINGIS

Height: 5'7" Weight: 9st 4lb
Career: 19 Grand Slam singles titles
Career earnings: $8,363,496 (£5.1 million)
Coach: her mother, Melanie Molitor, former Czech No 10
Hobbies: Skiing, riding, rollerblading, soccer, basketball, swimming, shopping and going to musicals

AMELIE MAURESMO





Packing a punch: Amelie Mauresmo after beating Lindsay Davenport



Bitter spice: Kournikova, left, Dokic and Pierce cannot match Mauresmo's power

THIS season was supposed to herald the age of the tennis Spice Girls, but after just a fortnight their supremacy is being threatened by ten stone of muscle.

Two weeks ago four bright young Lycra-clad things began the Australian Open. Their leader, Martina Hingis, declared that she and Anna Kournikova were the Spice Girls of tennis. The shapely figures of Venus Williams and Mary Pierce have been similarly touted as giving women's tennis astonishing pulling power, along with the rising star Jelena Dokic, 15, of Australia.

Now only one of the band remains: Hingis will tomorrow defend her title against the relatively unknown and formidably built Frenchwoman Amelie Mauresmo.

The 19-year-old does not quite fit the new mould of women's tennis. But with shoulders that a prop forward would pay money for, there are very few moulds built to accommodate her athletic form.

In the semi-finals she overwhelmed Davenport — and, at 6ft 2½in and 12½st, the American world No 1 takes some whelming. Mauresmo was too strong, too quick and too determined for one of the most powerful strikers of the ball in the women's game.

Then again, she had the confidence. When asked about the possibility of facing either Davenport or Williams — the other muscular force on the WTA Tour — she announced that she was "the same as them or maybe better".

Davenport was not happy. "The shoulders look huge to me," she said. "A couple of times I thought I was playing a guy she was hitting it so hard. Women's tennis isn't normally played like that."

The chances are, however, that women's tennis will increasingly be played like that, and no one should be less surprised than Davenport.

When Hingis headed for the No 1 spot she did it with nous. Not particularly big or powerful, Hingis thought faster than anyone else could run. Having been trounced, the opposition retreated, regrouped and learned to run that little bit quicker.

Starting to believe in herself, Davenport lost weight, got fit and overtook Hingis. Now Mauresmo has done the same thing to her and Davenport is not happy.

Not that such bickering is new in tennis. Margaret Court's emergence was greeted with many a raised eyebrow. Tall, athletic and with a penchant for lifting weights, she scythed through the field to claim 24 Grand Slam singles titles, a record that still stands. When Christine Truman, Britain's 1961 Wimbledon finalist, encountered the all-conquering Australian, she mused on the masculinity of Court's aggressive game.

Twenty years later, Hana Mandlikova had a stand-up row with the muscular Martina Navratilova. Walloped at the French Open, Mandlikova claimed it was "difficult playing against a man — I mean Martina". It took four months and an abject apology before the two were back on speaking terms.

Not that Mauresmo cares what anyone else thinks: in fact, she regards Davenport's comments as something of a compliment. "The fact that I'm strong physically is maybe impressing her," she said.

The world junior champion in 1996, Mauresmo found the step up to the senior game hard. It was, she said, as much mental as physical dealing with the increased workload and the pressure of chasing world-ranking points. So, she learnt how to work harder.

She left the French Federation in 1997 and got herself a new coach in Warwick Bashford. When he took her so far but no further last year, he was replaced by Christophe Fournerie.

Mauresmo has stated her intention and that is to get to the top. Her spare time is spent pumping iron to make her the strongest player on the circuit and "the one who stays longest on the court". Even her private life is an open book — she lives with her girlfriend in St Tropez.

Now Mauresmo must try to beat Hingis for the first time and even the ever-confident Hingis admits that she has "a winning record but not a very easy one". Like Navratilova v Evert or Seles v Graf, it is a case of brawn against brain, power against finesse. Maybe the marketing men have something to work with after all.

Sport, page 56

Violent creed of bouncer turned cleric

Muslims disown fanatic who shames their faith

By Stephen Farrell

THE fundamentalist preacher accused by Yemen of organising terrorist attacks from his London mosque was condemned by Islamic leaders yesterday for tarnishing the image of the Muslim community with his support for violence.

Abu Hamza al-Masri — not his real name — was accused of adopting the title "sheikh" to imply religious qualifications that he does not have and of using his new-found notoriety to influence impressionable youngsters.

Egyptian-born Hamza, 41, used to work as a nightclub bouncer and bodyguard and had an illegitimate child before gaining British citizenship in 1985 and embracing religion. He claims to have studied civil engineering in Brighton in the early 1980s, but there is no record of that.

Hamza runs Supporters of Shariah, an extremist group dedicated to the rule of Islamic law, by mobile telephone and the Internet, where he attracted attention by offering military training on Web pages depicting a handgrenade.

He preaches at Finsbury Park Mosque in North London on the need to raise good Muslim families. His own son, Muhammad Kamil Mustapha, 17, was arrested in Yemen this week suspected of plotting to bomb British targets.

The boy's mother, Valerie, says that she has never seen him since Hamza, then known as Mustapha Kamil, persuaded her to let him take their son to visit his grandparents in Egypt 12 years ago.

Valerie, who refused to reveal her surname, said that, when she married Hamza in 1984, he was not a radical until things went "wrong" and he "started to get more into religion". They divorced and Hamza, who claims to have lost his hands and an eye clearing mines with the Mujahidin in Afghanistan, now lives in West London.

He has a son by another woman, claims disability benefit and moves between addresses. One, a terrace council house in Shepherds Bush, is distinctive for its shabby appearance and rubbish-strewn garden.

Arrested: Hamza's son, Muhammad Kamil Mustapha

Prominent Muslims are frustrated at the opprobrium Hamza and other fundamentalist advocates of violence have brought on their community from those who know little of Islam except the extremist views they read in newspapers or hear on television.

Hamza supports a holy war to create a worldwide Islamic state. He admits having been in contact with the leader of the group that kidnapped 16 Westerners in Yemen, although he denies planning terrorism.

He also admits previous contact with the extremist Armed Islamic Group, widely believed to have carried out massacres in Algeria, but says he has since distanced himself from it.

Zaki Badawi, principal of the Muslim College in West London, said there was no question of Hamza having attended any of the important religious centres, such as al-Azhar in Cairo, which confer meaningful religious titles.

"Anybody can call themselves a sheikh. He has no qualifications whatever that we know of," he said.



CHRIS HARRIS

Hamza preaches at a London mosque, but fellow Muslims say they are shocked by a gospel of terrorism that runs contrary to the Koran

"The Muslim community is very alarmed. The feeling is that he is giving a repulsive image of Islam. I get so many calls asking me how can we silence this man, but you cannot. It is a democracy.

"He is a complete nobody but anybody making extreme statements like this and looking as appalling as he does attracts people."

Iqbal Sacranie, secretary-general of the Muslim Council of Britain, deplored "fringe elements" granted a high profile for controversial views which had little support among Britain's two million Muslims. "What really concerns us is when they talk about killing innocent people, hostage-taking and terrorism. This is not what the Koran teaches and the sort of messages they put out shock the Muslim community. It is dangerous because it creates divisions."

Up to 1,000 people are said to attend Hamza's weekly prayer sessions, after which donations are made. It is not uncommon for Muslim businessmen to make single donations of £5,000 to their local mosques. Hamza charges £1 and £5 for audio and video cassettes of his addresses.

Even around Finsbury Park, he is a controversial figure. Adam Abdullah, a worker at the Muslim Information Centre less than a hundred yards away, chooses to worship at a tiny mosque adjoining his shop instead of Hamza's larger building.

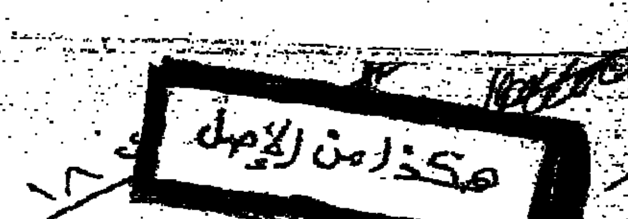
'He is giving a repulsive image of Islam. I get many calls asking how we can silence him, but we cannot'

"We have nothing against him but some of the things they do and say we do not agree with. We do not support terrorist actions at all," he said.

However, the strength of Hamza's support could be gauged from two young worshippers who gave him their full support yesterday. They claimed that the mosque was frequently visited by police and health inspectors looking for a pretext to close it down. Zaidoon Aburejelli, 17, a Palestinian, said: "He teaches us the way of Allah, he does not preach about terrorism. It is wrong what they say about him.

"People at the mosque do not like it that so many police come here. How would you like it if somebody went into a church and bothered you when you were praying?"

Toufik, who has prayed at Finsbury Park for a year, said: "Abu Hamza is a good man. He speaks the Koran. What is a terrorist? A terrorist is a man shooting a gun. Abu Hamza does not have any hands. He cannot be a terrorist."



Tagged offender relishes electronic ball and chain

Prisoners like feeling of freedom — and the Home Office will like the savings, reports Adrian Lee

AT 10am yesterday Simon Hart should have been carrying out menial prison chores. Instead he was climbing into his brother's BMW and making plans to celebrate as he became one of 57 inmates to be released early under a tagging scheme.

For the remaining 60 days of his sentence Hart, 31, must wear the device on his ankle. He is free to work and socialise by day but if he breaks a 7pm-to-7am curfew his tag will alert the authorities.

"It is a bit like having a ball and chain," said Hart, a window cleaner from Sandhurst, Berkshire. "But my freedom is all that matters."

In the next 12 months it is estimated that 30,000 prisoners serving the final stretches of sentences of between three months and four years will be tagged. Hart, who was serving a 15-month sentence at High Down prison, near Sutton, Surrey, for possessing cannabis, was accepted for tagging after completing five months and two weeks.

The scheme's cost of £35 million a year will easily be offset by savings made from reducing the overcrowded prison population, according to the Home Office.

"Anything that gives me a chance to get out of here is a good idea," Hart said. "The way I look at it is that it is really no different to wearing a watch. It means that I can watch television when I want, have a bath when I want and not have anyone ordering me about for 60 days when I should be in prison." He said he felt no stigma wearing the tag, which can be *hidden* beneath trousers.

The Home Office said the tags were waterproof and "will not interfere with any leisure activity". "I might even go swimming," Hart said. "I don't care who sees it."

Pilot schemes in Manchester, Norfolk and Berkshire were not entirely successful, although eight out of ten prisoners did comply. But Mr Hart *said he was confident he* would not reoffend and did not believe the strictures of the curfew would be too difficult to bear. "I have reached the age when I don't mind staying in at night watching TV. My freedom means too much for me to mess it up."

Yesterday, after giving brief interviews at the prison gates, he was driven to his brother's home for a family reunion. After celebrating *with a can of lager*, he met his probation officer at 12.30pm, then travelled to his parents' home, where he will spend the curfew. On a typical prison day he would have been woken at 7am, eaten breakfast in his single cell and begun prison work, helping a maintenance team, before 9am. After lunch, between 12.15pm and 2pm, he would return to work before again being locked in his cell at 4.45pm. From 5.45pm, until prisoners are secured for the night at 8.30pm, he would have been permitted to watch television and associate with other prisoners. During that time he might also have taken a shower.

Mr Hart's stable family background and the offer of regular work helped him to secure one of the first places on the scheme, called Home Detention Curfew. More than half the prisoners who applied for tagging at High Down, where there are 775 inmates of categories A to C, were refused following risk assessment checks. The final decision is made by the prison governor *and anyone charged with a* crime while wearing a tag is liable to recall. To become eligible, prisoners must have a permanent home address.

HOW THE DEVICES WORK

[illegible] ... the East, the Midlands and Wales. [illegible] ... costs about £350.



Simon Hart leaving prison yesterday, on his way to celebrate freedom with a lager

Inquiry on Branson's Chinese trespass

By Helen Rumbelow

RICHARD BRANSON'S illegal balloon crossing of China is being investigated by the Civil Aviation Authority after a complaint by Beijing.

"The British Embassy in Beijing received a *formal* complaint from the Chinese Government on January 14, which we have passed on to the CAA," the Foreign Office said.

The authority, which has the power to revoke licences, said it was looking into the *ICO Global Challenger*'s trespass.

Will Whitehorn, spokesman for Mr Branson, said that Virgin was confident it would be exonerated by the CAA. "The letter merely says that the Chinese are upset that we didn't land, but the crew wouldn't have survived a landing in the Himalayas," he said.

"The Chinese were very helpful. But due to circumstances with the winds, we missed their co-ordinates of entry."

China's decision to deny entry into its airspace has left three other balloon projects — including the all-British Cable and Wireless team — in a predicament. They have only two weeks before the jet streams that could catapult them around the world break up.

Drivers tell of rising road rage

By Stewart Tendler

MORE than half of London car-users have encountered "road rage" in the past year, according to a survey by Scotland Yard published yesterday.

The poll of more than 4,000 drivers and passengers found that 53 per cent reported incidents of aggression, including 41 per cent who said they had been insulted or gestured at. Eight per cent had been forced to pull over or been driven off the road. Four per cent said that a driver had got out of his vehicle and threatened them.

People aged between 35 and 54 suffered the most incidents: 69 per cent of men and 62 per cent of women reported cases. Those over 55 were the least likely to encounter road rage.

It was the first time that the Yard had included questions on road rage in its annual survey of public attitudes and concerns. Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, suggested that many of the incidents could be attributed to frustration at traffic congestion in the capital. He said that police supported the creation of a London-wide authority and an elected mayor partly because this would bring coordination to traffic planning.

Why Banks is wary of envoys bearing gifts

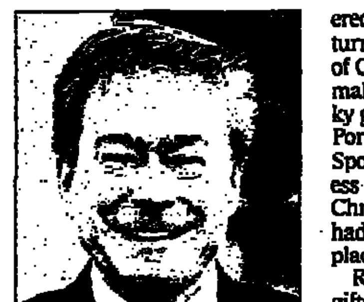
By James Landale
Political Correspondent

WHEN Tony Banks became Sports Minister, he was unprepared for the torrent of cheap gifts handed over by visiting ministers and officials. Mounds of scarves, ties, mugs and other sporting memorabilia adorn the shelves of his office at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

Interviewed by Radio 4 about the "gifts for favours" scandal enveloping the International Olympic Committee, Mr Banks bemoaned the culture of present-giving that permeates politics and sport.

His office off Trafalgar Square, he told the *Today* programme, was full of bric-a-brac and "anyone is welcome to come along and have a look at it". *The Times* took up the invitation and examined the booty that gives rise to his title of the Government's King of Tack.

Mr Banks's 18 months of ministerial experience has left him with more than 50 gifts. Under Whitehall rules, ministers can keep gifts worth less than £140. If they want to keep anything worth more, they must pay the difference. If the minister does not want a gift, it is kept in store and sold several years later.



Banks: finds swapping presents "embarrassing"

When Mr Banks's officials were asked if any of his gifts exceeded £140, they smirked and said: "See for yourself." Although the minister would never say it, the quality is, well, mixed. "All this is very unlikely to find its way to my home," he admitted. "Everything I have got is there in my room."

He finds the custom an awkward one. "I am vaguely embarrassed by these presents. There is an enormous exchange of tokens that people feel obliged to do, and no one knows how to stop it.

"If you do not reciprocate, you feel that you will be considered discourteous." He returns the favours with House of Commons gifts — cufflinks, make-up compacts and whisky glasses — and the National Portrait Gallery's book of Sporting Heroes. "It is a process completely like sending Christmas cards: you wish it had never started in the first place."

Rarely do ministers receive gifts worth more than £140 and often they prove problematic. Sir George Young, known as the bicycling baronet, was given more bikes than he knew what to do with while Minister of Transport in the last Government.

When John Major was Prime Minister, he was given a horse by President Niyazov of Turkmenistan for his 50th birthday in 1993. The three year-old colt remained in Turkmenistan for many months as officials struggled to organise its journey to Britain. The delay angered the President and much diplomatic embarrassment ensued.

After a long and tortuous journey via Moscow, the stallion reached Britain in 1994. It proved too small and unruly for duties with the Household Cavalry and is being looked after by a breeder.



CHRIS HARRIS

"The quality is, well, mixed": James Landale with "the King of Tack's" memorabilia

From black belt to wooden brick

NOT surprisingly, football predominates in Mr Banks's collection (James Landale writes). As a fanatical Chelsea supporter, he has a team shirt hung on the wall. Near by is a painting commemorating Chelsea's 1997 FA Cup success, signed by the team.

He has football pennants from Uruguay, Costa Rica and Malta, and scarves representing teams from Argentina to Northampton. A match ball from the France '98 World Cup sits on his shelves.

One of his tackiest ties is a bright yellow garment supporting Manchester's bid to hold the 2002 Commonwealth Games. A cheap tin model of an old-fashioned sailing barque from Malta's Manchester United supporters' club is also displayed.

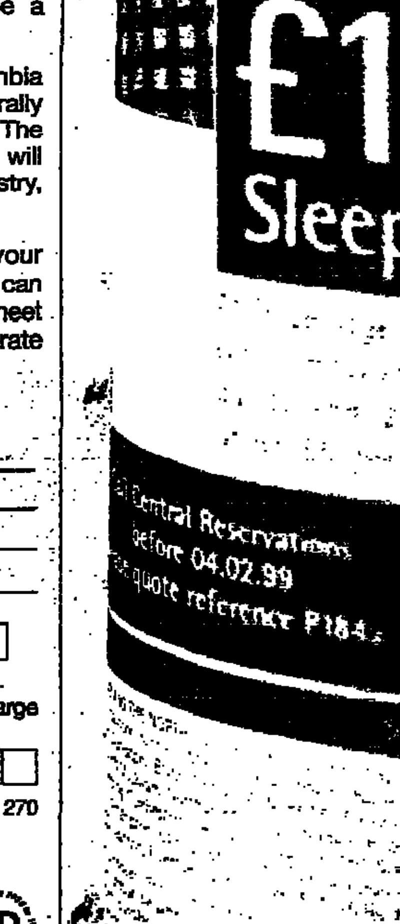
The only gift Mr Banks has received from the Olympic authorities is a small brass figurine of a male torso, rippling with stomach muscles.

His greatest haul came from last year's visit to the 13th Asian Games in Bangkok. He was given a model sailing dinghy with a blue plastic sail bearing an elephant, the official mascot, and a truly horrible blue tie. He also received a delightful gold-plated ceremonial key from the Governor of Bangkok, Bhichit Rattakul.

A wooden figure of a horse, given by a Fifa executive in Mali, is probably the most attractive item. Known as a *chiwara*, the horse promises good health and spirits.

One gift is simply a wooden brick, from the Argentine Junior Athletic Association in 1997, bearing the motto: *Mens sana in corpore sano*. He has a wooden and brass shield from Qatar, a papier mâché owl from Japan, a tableau of a house under a tree in Costa Rica, and a gold-plate and glass plaque marking the tenth anniversary of the Saudi-British memorandum of understanding for youth and sport.

Perhaps the most surprising object is a threatening-looking black belt. A certificate declares that Mr Banks is an honorary Third Dan black-belt in taekwondo. The minister has, of course, never done a high kick in his life.



Shortages put transplant surgery at risk

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

THE future of organ transplants is threatened by a growing shortage of donors and specialists capable of doing the life-saving operations, the Royal College of Surgeons of England says in a report today.

Transplantation is now the preferred treatment for most cases of major organ failure and waiting lists are growing all the time, but the number of organs available is diminishing, while surgeons in training are showing less interest in making a career in this highly skilled field.

Sir Peter Morris, Nuffield Professor of Surgery at Oxford University, who chaired the working party that drew up the report, said: "It is not an exaggeration to say that the provision of organ transplantation as a service is on a knife-edge — the two major problems being an inadequate supply of organs to meet the demand and an acute shortage of transplant surgeons."

The most recent figures show that there were 4,526 patients waiting for kidneys, 172 for livers, 196 for hearts, 99 for heart and lung, and 187 for lungs.

The shortage among organ donors is partly due to the reduction in road accident deaths over the past two decades. They have fallen by 2,000 a year to about 3,700. In addition, the number dying of brain haemorrhage has fallen by 3,000 a year over the same period. People who die in this way are the largest source of donated organs.

The shortage among surgeons is largely due to their anti-social working hours and the fact that the operations, although highly complex, have become so routine that they give poor job satisfaction and little kudos.

Most donors are accident victims or patients who die in intensive care units and by the time their organs can be removed and the recipient made ready for the operation it is usually very late in the day. More than 98 per cent of heart transplant operations take place after midnight.

"The high level of nocturnal activity makes it difficult for surgeons to maintain the same workload as they grow older," the report says. "Moreover, now that surgical techniques are well refined, the time has passed when reputations could be built on the service aspects of transplant surgery."

Because of the shortage of donors an increasing number of organs are now being taken from older people. Those have less chance of working successfully, which also discourages young surgeons. "Trainees tend to view transplantations at best as a part but not a central part of their career commitment."

Kidney transplant surgeons have least job satisfaction. Their work is so specialised that they often cannot do other operations. There are 67 consultants doing kidney transplants but students are dropping out of courses. A recent study showed that 40 per cent of students studying kidney transplantation decided not make it a career.. The specialty is so understaffed that those doing it usually have to work one night in two.

Liver transplant surgeons do a range of other types of related surgery and have greater job satisfaction. There are, however, only 22 of them.

The report calls for the creation of a national transplant service to oversee the way in which organs are collected and sent to recipients. It wants to see one specialist kidney unit set up to cover each two million of the population, and a special advisory group created for each organ.



SUZANNE HUBBARD

Beth Wagstaff, who died peacefully at home surrounded by her family after a long battle against breast cancer. Her funeral takes place today

Founder of breast cancer trust dies

Claudia Joseph reports on the end of a charity champion's battle against illness

BETH WAGSTAFF, who founded a breast cancer charity in memory of a friend, has died from the illness at the age of 39. She was discharged from hospital last Friday and died at 7am yesterday at her home in Hertford. Her family were at her bedside.

Jon Lansman, 41, her husband, said: "She died peacefully and was calm right up until the end. I was with her all night and her parents and brothers were there shortly before she died. The children woke up and came in just moments afterwards. It could not have happened in a nicer way."

Ms Wagstaff, who had three children — Max, 11, Molly, 8, and Benjamin, 7 — was diagnosed with breast cancer in December 1994, almost three years after she first attended Guy's Hospital in London with a lump in her breast. Her husband is pursuing her medical negligence claim against Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust for allegedly failing to diagnose the disease.

Ms Wagstaff, who was assistant chief executive of Hertfordshire County Council, founded The Lavender Trust in memory of Ruth Picardie, who chronicled her own illness in a series of newspaper articles.

Her funeral takes place today in the village of Brickendon and her husband has requested that, rather than send flowers, mourners send donations to The Lavender Trust.

Bill Ogley, chief executive of Hertfordshire County Council, said: "This is a tragedy for Beth's family and our thoughts are with them. It is also a great loss for the council. Beth was an enormous asset with her skill and enthusiasm. She will be greatly missed."

Rosemary Birch, a nurse who helped care for Ms Wagstaff at St Thomas' Hospital, said: "We were all very sad to hear of Beth's death. She was an extremely courageous lady."

Donations can be made to Breast Cancer Care on 0171-384 2984 or by sending a cheque to The Lavender Trust, Breast Cancer Care, Freepost LON644, London, SW6 4BR.

'Crisis ahead' over retiring Asian GPs

By Nick Nuttall

CERTAIN areas of Britain could lose a quarter of their GPs because so many Asian doctors are about to retire, a study has found. Of the 25,333 doctors in general practice, 4,192 — 16.5 per cent — qualified in South Asia before coming here. About two thirds of these will retire within the next ten years.

Areas that have few Asian doctors, including parts of the West Country, are unlikely to suffer. But other places, where half the GPs qualified in Asia, are facing severe problems. "In some health authorities there will be a loss of one in four general practitioners. Those health authorities with the greatest number of such doctors are in some of the most deprived areas and have experienced the most difficulty in filling vacancies," says the study published in the *British Medical Journal*.

The authors, Donald Taylor, of Duke University in North Carolina, and Aneez Esmail, of the University of Manchester, are calling on planners to act urgently to counter the threat to health care. One area of concern is the falling number of students wanting to study medicine, and the relatively high number dropping out of their degrees or leaving the profession when young. "Another issue is the expected retirement of doctors who qualified in South Asian medical schools and emigrated in the 1960s and 1970s primarily to fill a perceived staff shortage in an expanding NHS," say the team.

The researchers used data collected in 1992 which logged the country of qualification for British GPs. They tracked the movements of the doctors to assess the impact of their retirement on different health authorities.

The hardest-hit authority was likely to be Barking and Havering in East London and Essex. More than 56 per cent of its GPs qualified from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India or Pakistan. By 2007, half of these will have retired. Next hardest-hit will be Redbridge and Waltham Forest, where 44 per cent of the GPs are of Asian background; half of these are likely to retire in the next eight years. Other hard-hit authorities include Walsall, Salford, City and East London, Brent and Harrow, and Wigan.

Muhammad Chaudry, 62, who qualified as a GP in 1966 and has practised in Chatham, Kent, ever since, said that, with so many doctors nearing retirement age, there would be severe problems. These days, young men were less likely to come over to work as doctors because they had to pass an examination in the English language before being able to register, he said.

Brain disease drug hope

By Helen Rumbelow

A NEW drug treatment for brain cancer was made available on the National Health Service yesterday.

The treatment is the most promising advance in two decades for the most common and most lethal form of brain cancer affecting 3,000 people in Britain every year.

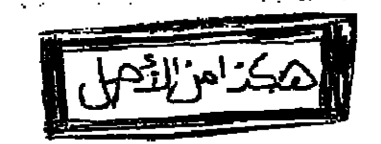
Previously those with "glioma" tumours had a 10 per cent chance of survival, and chemotherapy was barely effective with some terrible side effects. Trials were carried out on people with advanced brain cancer, which can cause personality changes, speech loss, blindess and paralysis.

In a third, their tumours were shrunk by the drug, and in half the drug stopped their tumours growing.

"It transforms their quality of life, which is amazing in a field where there has been really very little hope," said Ed Newlands, Professor of Cancer Medicine at Charing Cross Hospital, at the launch of the drug at the Cancer Research Campaign in London. However, it will cost about £1,200 a month for a course of treatment, said Schering-Plough, which has bought the licence from the Cancer Research Campaign.

Tests have begun to see if the drug has more powerful effects if used for early stages of the disease, and if it can offer hope to those with skin cancer.

The drug has been in development for 20 years by Malcolm Stevens, working for the Cancer Research Campaign at Nottingham University.




SUZANNE HUBBARD

Ffion Jenkins at the Royal Festival Hall, London, for yesterday's conference on business money for the arts. William Hague's wife, who works for the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, heard Colin

Firm backing for arts

Tweedy, her chief executive, announce that sponsorship rose 20 per cent last year to a record £115 million. Peter Ainsworth, Shadow Culture Minister, said: "The most curious thing about the arts in this country is the need constantly to justify their existence, as though they were an embarrassment. This is all the more odd as we are rather better at the arts than some other countries that share none of our inhibitions."

Covent Garden cuts opera and ballet prices

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

THE Royal Opera House is to slash ticket prices, stay open during the day and take opera and ballet into the community.

Stung by the controversy over the £78 million of National Lottery money going towards its £214 million new building, it has finally acted to counter accusations of arrogance and mismanagement. The building, due to open in November, will offer free chamber music concerts, tours and exhibitions as well as operas and ballets for considerably less than before.

Top prices for full-length operas, such as the opening production of Verdi's *Falstaff*, will be about £100 less than in the old building, bringing them down to £150. The best tickets for ballet have been cut from £70 to £60. More than half the seats will cost £40 or less for all but the most expensive operas and £30 or less for ballet. Although Covent Garden always had tickets for only a few pounds, the new prices will greatly extend the range of those between £6 and £45.

The opera house also guarantees that 20 per cent of the tickets in any range will be available to the general public: in the past the most glittering productions were sold to the "great and good" and corporate members long before others could request them.

Michael Kaiser, Covent Garden's recently appointed chief executive, emphasised that the organisation was on budget and on schedule. The company had prepared a two-year budget that showed it could break even, he said, partly byreducing the administrative staff of 850 to 520, with a further 150 casual members.

Previously, Mr Kaiser said, the company was spending "too much on admin and too little on art. We have to remember what our mission is; ultimately, it's about performance, not administration."

The theatre has lurched from one financial crisis to another amid scathing criticisms of mismanagement in reports by the theatre director Sir Richard Eyre and the Culture Select Committee. While accusations of arrogance and elitism stained its image, it also had to contend with the threat of closure when staff refused to accept working conditions.

However, the new board, under Sir Colin Southgate, persuaded the Arts Council to increase its subsidy from £14.4 million last year to £16 million from next April in return for pledges on public access, lower ticket prices and tight management controls.

Expressing a determination to create "one of the great theatres of the world", Mr Kaiser said: "People will be able to take tours, attend free concerts, sit in the restaurants and bars." It will be open six days a week during the daytime, between 11am and 3pm.

"We have made great strides with the pricing structure," he said. The lowest prices would be available when people most wanted to come — Fridays and Saturdays — when the top price would go down to £85 for opera, against the previous £147.50, and £50 for ballet against the previous £70.

Central to Covent Garden's plans is the studio theatre for educational work and "hundreds" of events. The programme includes instructing teachers from state schools on the art of teaching opera and ballet, and working with children to create their own opera.

Programmes will go beyond Covent Garden to hospitals and hospices.

Stage is set for a grand revival

By Rodney Milnes
Opera critic

THE programme for the ROH's reopening is good news for those who feared that box-office demands were going to mean wall-to-wall *Tosca*. True, there *is* a revival of the much-loved *Bohème* early in the new year, Haitink conducting the award-winning *Meistersinger* with John Tomlinson, and a starry *Rosenkavalier* revival — the sort of international fare the ROH is there for.

Angela Gheorgiu and Roberto Alagna, the hottest properties in the business, will sing Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*. Opening the season with that other hot property, Bryn Terfel, in a new production of *Falstaff* — with the well-tested team of Haitink and the director Graham Vick — is the sort of coup that the relaunch needs; and, to prove it's not a one-off, Terfel returns to sing in *The Flying Dutchman*.

There are also a revival of Birtwistle's *Gawain*, and Ligeti's *Le Grand Macabre*, in the Peter Sellars production from Salzburg.

The "other" *Otello* — Rossini's — will be performed for the first time at the ROH, and Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito*, conducted by Nicholas McGegan, is another Salzburg import. But we will have to wait until next spring for what may well turn out to be an important premiere: Martinu's *Greek Passion*, based on Kazantzakis's *Christ Recrucified*.

So, a really well-balanced programme. Add the activities, many free, in the two new studio spaces, the hugely PC education programmes and enough "star tenor" content to loosen corporate purse-strings, and you have to admit the ROH is back in business.

THE COST OF AN EVENING'S ENTERTAINMENT

Prices for the best seats

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
[illegible] New prices
£85–£150*
£100–£150*
[illegible] New prices
£50
£60
[illegible] £55
[illegible] £27
ODEON CINEMAS
£10
£4.75

*The higher price is for Gala Evenings

Not the same old Tory

Party chairman says his patrician past is no bar to a modernising future, writes Mark Inglefield

MICHAEL ANCRAM does not seem the ideal person to transform the Tories into a modern, meritocratic body.

The Conservative Party chairman is an Earl and will one day become the Marquess of Lothian. Add to that his public school and Oxbridge background, even the fact that his wife is a duke's daughter, and you have what seems like a classic old Tory patrician.

"My background is there," he says. "It's not something I can walk away from. I've always thought you should judge a person by what he does and not where he came from."

Mr Ancram is no fuddy-duddy but an astute and determined politician. He will need every ounce of his skills to make the Tories electable again.

William Hague is the most unpopular leader since records began — and that is among Tory voters. Support for the party, as the MORI poll shows, has fallen to 24 per cent.

"I take a very sanguine view of polls. William and I knew this wasn't going to be easy. We were comprehensively beaten at the last general election and we now have to show the public we have reformed as a fresh and dynamic party."

Mr Ancram, 53, who took over from Lord Parkinson last October, brushes doubts aside. "William is the jockey who's going ride the Conservative party horse to victory and I'm the trainer," he says.

If that is so, surely Mr Blair is the equivalent of Red Rum — almost unbeatable. "I'm not sure that Blair is a thoroughbred," he says. "He may have faults. He may break down and this is what we are beginning to see signs of.

"Everytime he comes under pressure there is not the basis of principle in what he's doing on which he can fall back. You don't get the feeling there is something sound there that is going to last the distance."

He adds: "The idols began to show clay feet. Within this Government there was this culture of cronyism which is distinctly deep and unhealthy. And the events over Christmas have begun to show how deep those lines of cronyism went."

Mr Ancram believes one of the biggest threats facing the Tories — the Liberal Democrats merging with Labour in a centre-left alliance — have diminished with the resignation of Paddy Ashdown.

"I think there will be attempts to maintain it after he has gone, but I think its credibility is severely damaged."

So does he really believe the Tories can win the next election? "I have always taken the view in politics that you win elections at election-time. If the message is right and you are convincing people that you can be trusted and your opponents are seen to be faltering then you can win," he says.

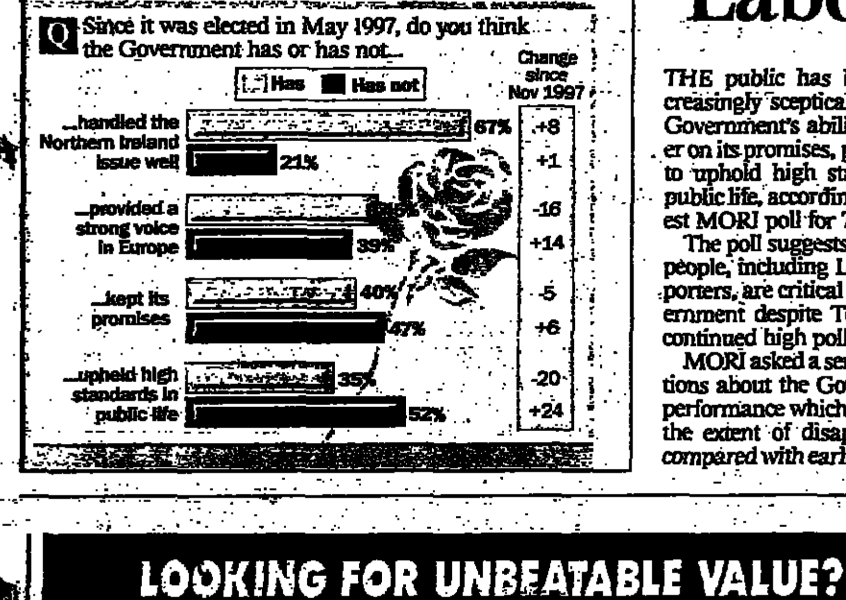
"I am not impressed by the argument that a 179-seat majority can be reduced in two or three elections. If you an win an election by 179 you can lose it in one election."

This all sounds a bit dreamy. I ask him what scenario he would most like to wake up to. "That people suddenly begin to see how much they were taken in by Labour at the last election," he answers with a smile. "We were sold a box with the picture of chocolates on the top: now the box is open, the people suddenly find that the chocolates inside are very different to those that were painted on the box."

Leading article, page 25


SIMON BROOKE WEBB

Michael Ancram: "William Hague is the jockey who is going to ride the Tory horse to victory and I'm the trainer"



Labour must deliver on promises

By Peter Riddell

THE public has become increasingly sceptical about the Government's ability to deliver on its promises, particularly to uphold high standards in public life, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll suggests that many people, including Labour supporters, are critical of the Government despite Tony Blair's continued high poll ratings.

MORI asked a series of questions about the Government's performance which show both the extent of disappointment compared with earlier expectations and a rise in doubts over the past year. This increases the pressure on ministers in what they have described as "the year of delivery".

The most worrying finding for Labour is on sleaze. In November 1997, 55 per cent of the public thought the Government was upholding high standards in public life, while just 28 per cent disagreed. Now, 35 per cent think the Government is upholding high standards with 52 per cent believing it is not. The shift among Labour supporters has also been large. In November 1997, the balance was 69 to 18 per cent on the side of upholding high standards. This is now 50 to 39 per cent, indicating the unease among the grass roots after the Mandelson affair and other stories.

The Government's standing on Europe has fluctuated considerably. At the 1997 election, 55 per cent thought that Labour would provide a strong voice for Britain in Europe, while 25 per cent thought that it would not. In office, and in view of the more positive approach taken by Mr Blair, this improved to 61 to 25 per cent by November 1997.

However, after the argument over tax harmonisation, 45 per cent now think the Government is providing a strong voice for Britain in Europe with 39 per cent disagreeing.

By a 67 to 21 per cent margin, the public believes that the issue of Northern Ireland has been handled well.

Overall, 40 per cent believe that the Government has kept its promises, with 47 per cent thinking it has not. A significant minority of Labour supporters, 31 per cent, think the Government has not kept its promises, while 57 per cent believe that it has.

The poll showed a sharp rise — from 34 to 49 per cent — in the number of people mentioning the NHS as among the most important issues in Britain today.

☐ *MORI interviewed 960 adults on the Government's performance between January 22 and 25.*

Hague needs to alter style and tactics

Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The main virtue the Tories need now is patience. People may still not have much time for them, but that does not mean that they are starry-eyed about the Government. Having thrown out the Tories in May 1997, the public is not about to change its mind quickly, especially as the Opposition has done so little to justify second thoughts.

However, the latest MORI poll for *The Times* contains warning messages for ministers. The public has doubts about the Government's ability to deliver on its promises and is worried about the NHS. Stories about "sleaze" have tarnished Labour's reputation for upholding high standards in public life.

Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have repeatedly referred to 1999 being the "the year of delivery", when the public wants to begin to see tangible evidence of improvements. So nervous are ministers that they have already raided the modernisation fund to find money for nurses. These doubts offer some hope to the Tories that Labour is not impregnable and is potentially vulnerable. It is a question of timing and depends, of course, on the depth and length of the economic downturn. However, the Opposition has to be in a position to benefit which, at present, it clearly is not.

The stupidest reaction to the poll would be to panic, and William Hague, if not all his MPs, is too sensible to do that. There is no simple, or quick, way out of the Tories' current predicament. Whatever Mr Hague does gradually to reshape his frontbench team over the next few years, a dramatic reshuffle would be a waste of time, and almost certainly make no impact on the public. Equally, questioning Mr Hague's own leadership is beside the point.

His own personal rating, satisfied less dissatisfied, remains very low, particularly among professionals and managers and 35 to 54 year olds. However, his rating has improved among Tory supporters while deteriorating among others. No one in his Shadow team would do better in the short term, and Kenneth Clarke is too out-of-step on the euro for the tastes of many Tory MPs and activists.

If it is obvious what the Tories should not do, there is less agreement about what they should do. Most spokesmen are active and energetic. The problem is that too much of their efforts are misplaced and unfocused. Condemning the Government at every opportunity convinces no one except the faithful. The Tories have failed so far to present themes which strike a chord. That is partly because they are sticking too rigidly to their strategy of apologise, then listen, then set out broad themes and, finally, offer policy alternatives. But listening too often amounts to meaningless marketing waffle.

What the Tories need to do is to select areas where the Government is vulnerable and to present a credible alternative, as they are starting to do on waiting lists and choice in schools. This need not involve a detailed costed policy, but it should be tangible enough for the public to understand. At present, the only distinctive Tory policy is opposition to the euro and, while that is undoubtedly backed by the majority of hard-core supporters, it is also driving away some activists, as Michael Heseltine pointed out last night.

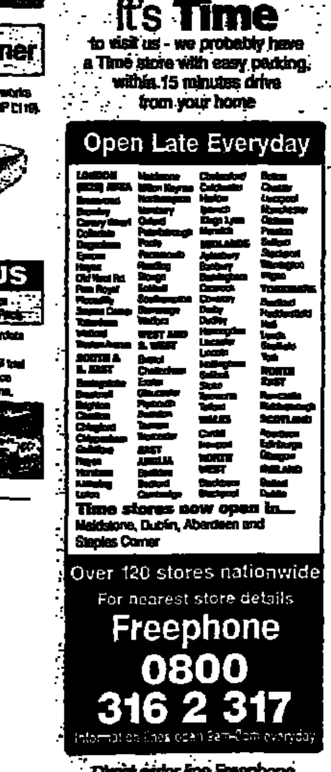
Europe apart, the Tories need to change their style and their tactics. They too often appear unsympathetic and out of touch. No wonder that voters are still willing to forgive the Government its sins — for the moment, at least.

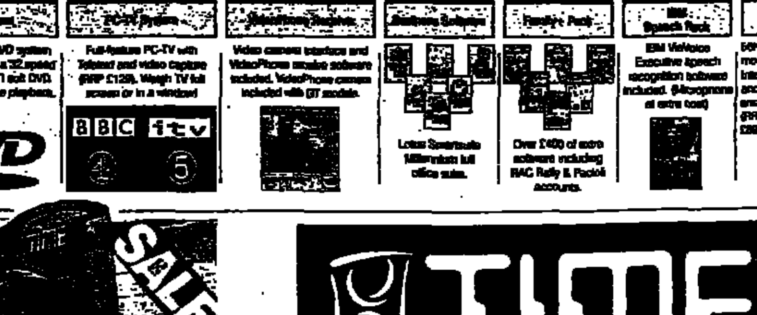




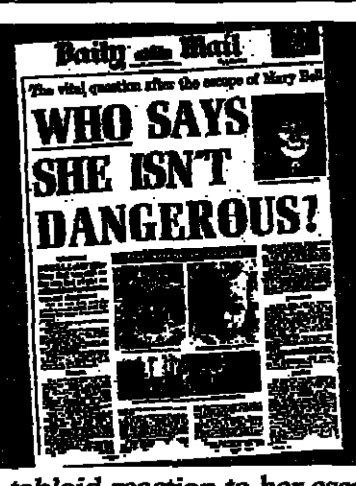












'Mary is one of the loneliest people I know'



'Mary is a very, very loving mother'

Why did no one see that Mary wanted help?

The second instalment of our serialisation of Gitta Sereny's remarkable study of Mary

Mary Bell, the child killer, left; a tabloid reaction to her escape from jail in 1977; and how *The Times* last year serialised *Cries Unheard*, the biography by the author Gitta Sereny, centre

Street of shame or real life?

Last Spring The Times serialised Cries Unheard, Gitta Sereny's disturbing biography of the child killer Mary Bell. In the ensuing controversy, The Times was accused of breaching press watchdog rules banning payments to convicted criminals. The Press Complaints Commission rejected the complaint, saying the book was in the public interest. But concerns were raised about later allegations of media harassment against Bell and her daughter, who learned of her mother's identity for the first time. On Wednesday peers debated the lessons to be learnt from the case. Lord Wakeham, chairman of the PCC, insisted that The Times had been right to publish.

Reports: **James Landale**

THE debate was opened by **Lord McNally**, the Liberal Democrat peer who initiated it. He quoted from two journalists. "Brian MacArthur, writing in *The Times* on May 1, had this to say about the press treatment of Mary Bell and her family in the spring of 1998: 'It was the fault of the tabloid editors who have mercilessly hounded her. It need not have happened and there were many journalists around me who were ashamed of their trade'. Harsh words indeed.

"But Mr Roy Greenslade, writing in *The Guardian* on July 23, 1998 following the PCC adjudication, wrote: 'In siding with the editors who have published — and paid handsomely for it — the stories of convicted criminals, the PCC shows it lives in the real world'."

Lord McNally said: "Two journalists, both of whom I respect, and two different views: street of shame or the real world. It is because there are conflicting opinions and unanswered questions that I ask this question tonight." He asked the Government to say whether those responsible for Mary Bell's supervision had informed ministers that she was writing a book. "If ministers were not involved and misjudgments occurred at lower levels, have lessons been learnt? Secondly, can the minister tell us why the injunction which carries the name of a 'Mary Bell Order' was so late in applying to the very persons it was initially designed to protect?"

> 'The time has come to think of big fines'
> — *Lord McNally*

Lord McNally quoted from a letter he had received from Lord Irvine of Lairg. The Lord Chancellor said he would consider it "repugnant" for a football hooligan to profit from a book about his crime, but he would not ban it: "I could not bring myself to prohibit a book of this kind which could add to the sum total of human knowledge about the genesis of crime."

Lord McNally said that the Lord Chancellor and the PCC were missing the point. "What happens when that kind of public interest - that is, a genuine extension of understanding of an issue - is transformed by the press into salacious titillation for no other reason than to sensationalise and to sell newspapers? The commission view that it was publication, not serialisation, which provoked the search for Mary Bell is doubtful."

Lord McNally voiced concern at the rule preventing the PCC holding an inquiry without an initial complaint being made. "I believe the commission should change its rules. To allow a situation to arise where newspaper reporters are camped outside the house of a 14-year-old girl supposedly under the protection of the courts, in flagrant abuse of the PCC code, is tantamount to a fireman watching a house burn down but doing nothing because no one inside has dialled 999."

He said the PCC was improving and growing in public respect. "But when it fails, it fails spectacularly. It fails because journalists, editors and publishers throw self-regulation and codes of conduct to the wind when they think a story sensational enough to abandon all restraint. I believe the time has come to consider sanctions of a hefty fine — I mean seven figures — to deter breaches of the code."

Lord Williams of Mostyn, the Home Office Minister, said an internal Home Office inquiry had found that there were occasions when ministers might have been informed about the Mary Bell case but were not. He said the Permanent Secretary had instituted new guidelines for civil servants about keeping ministers better informed.

The **Earl of Longford**, the Labour peer, insisted that convicted prisoners should be allowed to profit from writing books. "Anybody who has been in prison for many years, accepting his full punishment, should be allowed to be rewarded and paid for his work. Otherwise, we should be adding to his punishment." Lord Longford asked for the PCC to give greater protection to prisoners hounded by the press. "They are helpless and at the mercy of the tabloid press."

> 'The press must put its house in order'
> — *Lord Lester*

Lord Lester of Herne Hill, a Liberal Democrat, noted that from 2000 the Human Rights Act would come into force, forcing the courts to balance free speech and privacy. "It is important that the PCC is given the power to provide effective remedies so that the courts are only involved in the last resort and not as a matter of course. The media clause which the Government wrote into the Human Rights Act is a great incentive for the press to give powers to the PCC since the privacy code will be taken into account by judges when they decide upon what remedies to grant."

"I am convinced that the right to personal privacy is not sufficiently protected, certainly for private persons like Mary Bell's daughter. Second, unless the PCC is given powers to provide effective remedies, especially compensatory remedies in cases where they may or may not be a victim complaining, the courts will have to intervene. I hope that one of the lessons that is learnt by the press is that it must put its house in order by giving greater powers to the PCC."

In his maiden speech, **Lord Neill of Bladen**, chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, voiced concern about giving the PCC powers to enforce financial penalties. "My difficulty is that as soon as one gives that sort of power to the PCC, it is inevitably turned into a quasi-judicial tribunal where the place is packed, and there is no right to refuse to let lawyers come and argue their cases."

Viscount Astor, for the Tory front bench, said he had found *The Times's* public interest arguments in the case compelling. But he suggested that the PCC might consider whether or not it should be able to investigate on its own volition without waiting for a complaint from an injured party. "If the commission does not want to consider the whole range of third-party complaints, it may wish to consider whether a particular case is relevant to another case which it is currently considering. The commission may wish to consider whether in its opinion there is an overwhelming public interest issue at stake."

Leading article, page 25

Wakeham says Times abided by press code

LORD WAKEHAM, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, reiterated his view that *The Times* had acted in accordance with the code when it serialised the Mary Bell biography.

"It was not a moral judgment about whether the book should have been written. It was not a judgment about Mary Bell's decision to accept money. It was not a judgment about whether it is right or wrong to pay criminals. It was a judgment made only on the basis of a code which says that newspapers can pay criminals — either directly or indirectly — provided that there is a public interest in doing so and payment is necessary for that to be done."

He added: "The commission found the public interest case put forward by *The Times* in this case to be overwhelming. It was, in a nutshell, this: does the criminal justice system actually deliver justice to children as damaged as Mary Bell was and, if not, how can it be improved?"

"I have to say that the public interest oozes from every pore of the book and in turn from the extracts from it which were serialised in the newspaper. They included circumstances of how a child who grew up in surroundings of depravity came to be a murderer; the connection between Bell's own crime and the abuse to which she was herself subjected; and the first authoritative account of how the penal system deals with child criminals. All those matters were of genuine public interest. That is why we believed *The Times* was right to serialise the book and did not breach the code in doing so. What the author had to say was important and deserved a wide audience."

But he added: "What disturbed me far more is what followed: namely the alleged harassment of Mary Bell and her daughter and the apparent fact that Mary Bell was forced to reveal her identity to her duaghter for the first time. The commission had massive sympathy for Mary Bell's daughter — as indeed did *The Times* — but was constrained in what action it could take."

First, an injunction covering identification of Mary Bell existed, but was not being enforced.

Second, no one made a complaint, preventing the PCC holding an inquiry. "I would have welcomed a complaint about the alleged harassment which took place. It would have given us an opportunity to make clear that the harassment of any child is unacceptable and that we shall always condemn it."

He added that the "furore about the payment to criminals and the alleged harassment that took place would have occurred whether or not there was serialisation of the book in *The Times* or any other newspaper."

Lord Wakeham ended by offering to co-operate fully with the Government's review of the law.

Wakeham: said public interest case was overwhelming

Review of law by summer

LORD WILLIAMS of Mostyn, the Home Office Minister, said a review of the law on allegations of media harassment and intrusion would be completed by summer.

But he said the difficulties of changing the law were significant. "If we can encourage the PCC at least to review its present powers, to see whether or not they are working effectively, in the end that may be the best way forward." He suggested that the PCC should be able to instigate investigations on its own volition.

He voiced his "shame and horror" at the alleged treatment of Mary Bell's daughter by the media. But he said the history of the press over the past ten to 15 years had been of "responsible improvement". He acknowledged that *The Times* had overcome the "quite high hurdle" when making its public-interest defence.

He said: "We cannot have a democratic, free society without a press which is free. A free press is bound, on occasions, to overstep the limits. The scheme that we need is for the PCC to remedy those wrongs it can and for only the rarest of cases to be the subject of legal proceedings."

Scotland Yard plans specialist restraint teams

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

SCOTLAND YARD is planning to set up emergency medical teams trained to deal with mentally ill people or violent drug users after a series of deaths in custody.

Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, has ordered senior officers to draw up a blueprint for the teams after the death last week of Roger Sylvester. The 30-year-old black *man from* North London, who suffered from mental illness, died after being held by police during a disturbance.

This week a jury decided that restraint tactics contributed to the death of Nathan Delahunty, a businessman from South London who became distressed after taking cocaine. The inquest was told he had 52 injuries.

Sir Paul is also considering issuing video cameras to the teams and to police dealing with disturbed people so that the film can be shown to inquests. Video cameras are already in use in stations, on operations and are carried in some police vans.

The emergency teams would operate like armed response vehicles. They would be on 24-hour call around London and could carry paramedics, doctors or officers with special training.

Each would have a qualified high-speed driver. Officers called to a scene could summon their aid or 999 dispatchers would alert them after an emergency call from a member of the public.

The team would be qualified *to assess a patient, and civilian* counsellors could mollify a disturbed man or woman. If they could not be calmed the teams would restrain them safely using the techniques deployed by nurses in mental hospitals. They would be able to sedate a patient and arrange for transfer to hospital by ambulance.

The teams would be the first of their kind in the world, but Sir Paul now feels they would be justified to relieve the pressure on officers and answer public concern.

Sir Paul said yesterday that he had decided there must be new measures following the case of Mr Sylvester, who died in an intensive care unit after being taken by police to a mental health hospital.

Police first-aid training has already been improved and some methods of restraint have been banned.

Sir Paul said police were dealing with hundreds of cases each year of violent situations created by drug abuse or by mental health patients who had been discharged to care in the community programmes. The main problem came from cocaine users because there was always a risk they could *suffer a heart attack after* a rush of adrenalin.

At present ambulance staff will not deal with violent patients and it is left to police to step in, often with only a pair of handcuffs and restraint techniques.

The commissioner said: "It is becoming harder and harder for officers to know how to dealt with these cases. In a civilised society there must be a better way of dealing with these cases. Is it fair to expect police officers to solve these issues?"

Scotland Yard has started talks with ambulance services, coroners and doctors to assess the plan and work out how it could operate. Sir Paul acknowledged that setting up the units would be expensive but drastic action was needed.

JOHN STILLWELL



Maria Dingwall and actors Christopher Eccleston and Tom Courtney at the service

Cathedral full in memory of Derek Bentley

By Robin Young

SOUTHWARK Cathedral beside London Bridge was full yesterday afternoon for a long-postponed service in memory of a simple-minded young man hanged 46 years ago for murdering a policeman.

Derek Bentley's conviction for the murder of PC Sidney Miles was quashed by the Court of Appeal last July. Yesterday's service was an exercise in penitence and contrition, though government *ministers who had promised* to attend failed to appear.



Bentley: hanged 46 years ago for murder

Despite their absence the cathedral was full, and many more people who had involved themselves in the case over the years sent messages or cards of support.

The Provost of Southwark, the Very Rev Colin Slee, delivered a scathing sermon against complacency and institutional immorality. "Capital punishment is not only evil because miscarriages of justice cannot be reversed but also because it pollutes *and ultimately destroys the* very fabric of morality in society," the provost said.

Derek Bentley's death, he said, had altered the lives of many people, and transformed Bentley's working-class family "into doggedly determined campaigners, articulate, informed and politically active". The provost added: "It is a matter of profound regret that there is no senior ministerial representative here."

Derek Bentley's niece, Maria Bentley Dingwall, deputy mayor of the London Borough of Merton, read from St John's Gospel.

Christopher Eccleston, who played Derek Bentley *in the film Let Him Have It,* attended. Derek Bentley's brother Dennis, 56, said: "I can imagine my mother and father and my sister, Iris, being very proud if they could have been here."

Rescued chimp gets new start

By Helen Johnstone

ONE of the most unusual custody battles in Britain began yesterday with a subtle but defiant change to a name.

Directors of the monkey sanctuary that rescued Trudy the chimpanzee from the cruelty of circus trainer Mary Chipperfield announced that its name would now be spelt with a "y" rather than Trudi as the Chipperfields had it.

Chipperfield, who was found guilty on Wednesday of cruelty towards the chimpanzee, is insisting on having her back. Andover Magistrates Court was told that because Trudy was owned by Chipperfield Promotions Ltd and not Chipperfield herself, it could not stop the company returning the chimp to her Hampshire farm.

The chimp spent much of the first 18 months of its life in a cage, less than 4 by 3 metres, in a freezing barn. It was isolated from other animals and had only a swing, rope and a ball for entertainment. Her sleeping quarters, in which she was locked from 4.30pm until 7.30am, was a darkened box similar to that used to transport cats. Her meals included scraps from supermarket rubbish bins.

Trudy's new world consists of a two-acre run and a large centrally heated house complete with gymnasium. It shares the area with a group of 11 whose members have all been rescued from abuse. Meals served at regular intervals include milk, primate pellets in a choice of raspberry and malt flavour, sunflowers, fruit, eggs and vegetables.

Jim Cronin, who took her to Monkey World, Wareham, Dorset, last April after police confiscated her from Chipperfield, said the chimpanzee, which has two finger tips and a toe missing, was traumatised. "We have rescued 44 chimps. She looked very much like them. We immediately showed an interest in her life and she responded."

Murder riddle darkens Yale's hallowed halls

Mystery deepens over student's brutal death, writes Damian Whitworth

THE brutality of the murder alone might have made a few headlines. The young woman was found face down with 17 stab wounds in her back and neck. But there had been 11 other murders in New Haven, Connecticut over the previous year so it was hardly likely to register on the national radar. The disclosure that she was a Yale University student made it more interesting, of course.

No student at the prestigious university had been killed for eight years. Then police said that this time they were not looking for a low-life robber or local drifter. They suspected that the killer was somebody from the tight-knit Ivy League academic community *itself*.

Almost two months after Suzanne Jovin, a bright and popular 21-year-old politics major, was found dead, nobody has been arrested or charged. That does not mean, however, that accusatory fingers are not being pointed. One of the world's most famous universities is consumed by the mystery, the gothic halls sullied by an atmosphere of suspicion.

Jovin spent much of December 4, the day she died, throwing a party for mentally ill people in the town. After the party, at about 9pm, she returned a borrowed van to the university and was last seen by college porters on campus.

Three quarters of an hour later she was killed, on a patch of moonlit grass in an up-market residential area that immediately struck investigators as strangely out of the way.

James Van de Velde, 38, who was supervising Jovin's thesis on international terrorism, entered the picture when police began talking to people who had seen her on the day she died. He said that he had seen her before the party, but it was for less than a minute, when she dropped off a draft for his perusal.

Professor Van de Velde: named as a suspect

Professor Van de Velde's students reported that he was visibly upset in the days after Jovin's death. With tears in his eyes he had placed a bouquet on her chair in class and asked for a moment's silence. "The professor seemed as shaken as everyone else," said one. He also wrote a tribute to Jovin in the *Yale Daily News*. Then rumours about the popular professor, who lived half a mile from where Jovin died, began to circulate.

Police confirmed that he was a suspect and began interviewing students, former students and other acquaintances. Professor Van de Velde responded by saying that the situation was a "nightmare", that he was innocent and the way the investigation was being conducted was unfair.

"The public announcement that I am in a pool of suspects is immensely upsetting. Any suggestion that I had anything to do with the death of my former student is deeply, deeply painful and outrageous," the professor said.

His offers to supply a blood sample and take a lie-detector test were turned down. Nevertheless, the university cancelled his classes, insisting that it presumed he was innocent but that his presence in the classroom would be "a major distraction for students and impair their educational experience".

Suzanne Jovin, the 21-year-old student at Yale who was killed in a knife attack

A Yale graduate himself, Professor Van de Velde had worked as a diplomat in the State Department under the Bush Administration before returning to his *alma mater* to teach. He was renowned for his unusual methods, such as pulling a gun out of his briefcase in class to demonstrate to his diplomacy students how to deal with an extortion attempt. He would later say that the gun was not real.

His apartment contained books marked "CIA" and there was speculation as to whether he had worked for the agency, or wanted to create that impression. Professor Van de Velde was studying for a journalism degree and had been gaining work experience at a local television station. While there two female television reporters filed complaints about his behaviour. One accused him of peering through her windows and constantly phoning her after she broke off a fledgling relationship.

The university authorities have decided that Professor Van de Velde will continue to be paid as police struggle to find the killer in their midst.

Teachers lose their grip in Japan's blackboard jungle

From Robert Whymant in Tokyo

UNRULY pupils are driving Japan's teachers to seek psychiatric help after a collapse of discipline has left them unable to conduct classes in many schools. Clinics are having to treat increasing numbers suffering mental breakdowns and stress-related illnesses brought on by the phenomenon stoking a national debate: *gakkyu hokai*, or disintegrating classrooms.

Forty-four per cent of junior and secondary teachers say that they have witnessed the breakdown of discipline in classes, either their own or those of colleagues, according to a survey this month by Kyodo news agency. This time last year the Japanese media were awash with reports of classroom violence, which culminated in the fatal stabbing of a woman teacher by a 13-year-old.

In recent weeks, a country that once prided itself on rigorous classroom obedience has been shocked to discover that anarchy is spreading. Even junior schools, where children are traditionally most docile, are hotbeds of rebellion. Teachers testify that it is common for lessons to be disrupted by pupils walking around, chatting and sharing snacks. Staff also tell of boys relieving themselves in corridors, spitting on classroom floors and smashing windows. Earlier this month two 15-year-old boys, screaming obscenities, lashed out at a group of male and female teachers, inflicting injuries that sent five staff to hospital, two with broken cheekbones.

The mayhem is taking its toll on a profession that long enjoyed respect in a country obsessed by education. At a national teachers' conference last weekend participants described a sense of powerlessness. "The crisis in our schools and educational system is escalating at a rapid pace," Yuji Kawakami, head of the Japan Teachers' Union, said.

The Ministry of Education says teachers are increasingly affected by mental disorders: those whose absence stemmed from stress or nervous breakdowns account for a record 39 per cent of sick leave. The ministry blames pupils' disobedience. The toll on mental health is confirmed by doctors. Dr Ken Okada, head of psychiatry at Kanto Chuo Hospital in Tokyo, has seen a sharp rise in teachers seeking treatment. "Many are males in their mid-thirties and females in their forties. Younger ones quit before they go mad."

This month a teacher, 34, committed suicide in the chemistry laboratory of a high school in Hokkaido, northern Japan. The man was said to be in despair over the collapse of discipline among his pupils.

Teaching experts, media pundits and parents groping for explanations are blaming a breakdown of family values, too much television and junk food.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Nigeria threatens to quit Freetown

Freetown: Sierra Leone's embattled democratic Govrnment may soon be forced to negotiate with the leaders of bloody rebellion after Nigeria's leader said this week that hwanted to pull his troops out of the country to ensure a smooh transition to a civilian government due to be elected in My (Sam Kiley writes). General Abdusalaam Abubakar said n Abuja that he wanted to withdraw his troops before May 9.

A sudden pullout by the Nigerians, who dominatehe Ecomog forces backing the elected Government, would e disastrous for its leader Ahmed Tejan Kabbah. He has onla handful of loyal soldiers, the rest having repeatedly changd sides.

Harare torture proven

Harare: According to a report issued here there is uneniable medical evidence that the two Zimbabwean journasts detained illegally last week by military authorities wre tortured (Jan Raath writes). Phillimon Chigwanda, an othopaedic surgeon and trauma specialist, said: "There is no oubt in my mind" that Mark Chavunduka, 34, editor of the inependent *Standard* newspaper, and Ray Choto, 36, a reportr, were "subjected to severe interrogation and torture".

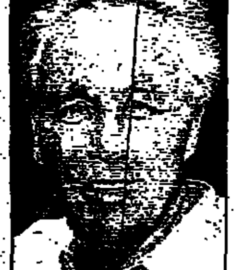
Call for Rock detente

Spain's main opposition party has called on Madricto set aside the issue of sovereignty in the search for an accomodation with Gibraltar (Michael Binyon writes). The Sanish Socialist Party has called for talks to boost co-operatin and mutual understanding, and suggested a given periodwhen there should be no change in the status quo — a brek with tradition sure to receive warm encouragement in Britin.

11 hurt in Cape blast

Cape Town: Eleven people were injured, three sriously, when a bomb exploded outside a police station in theheart of the city. Leonard Knipe, of the serious violent crims unit, said two suspects were being interrogated. Michael Ioward, the visiting Shadow Foreign Secretary, went to the sene and said: "These offences need to be tackled with detemination and I hope the perpetrators will be brought to justie." *(AFP)*

Daredevil transplant



Tampa, Florida: The motorcycle daredevil Evel Knievel, right, was in a stable condition after undergoing a liver transplant. Knievel, 60, has hepatitis C, which he believes he contracted from one of the many blood transfusions he needed after spectacular crashes in the 1960s and 1970s. The disease destroyed his liver. Knievel broke at least 35 bones and underwent surgery 14 times during his stunt career. *(AP)*

Chips down for lovers

Kuala Lumpur: *Muslim couples married in the Malaysian* capital will be issued with cards with compuer chips so Islamic police can instantly verify their vow, a news report said. Islamic police often raid rooms suspeed of sheltering an unwed pair. Islamic law prohibits sex otside marriage, *and offenders face up to two months in jaiand* a fine. The Government hopes to give police portable crd-readers. *(AP)*

Phone taps link key Milosevic men to killings

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

TWO senior Serb officials close to Yugoslavia's President Milosevic have been implicated in the massacre earlier this month of 45 ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, according to senior Western sources citing intercepted communications.

The recorded conversations have connected Nikola Sainovic, the Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister, and General Sreten Lukic, Kosovo's senior police commander, to the Racak massacre. Mr Sainovic is one of Mr Milosevic's most loyal allies, and before becoming his "point man" in Kosovo, was his main negotiator in Bosnia.

The taped telephone calls between Belgrade and Serb police commanders in Kosovo gave William Walker, the senior international official in the province, all the evidence he needed to convince the Yugoslav authorities that he knew too much to be thrown out of the country, Western sources have confirmed.

Mr Walker, the head of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's mission in Kosovo, was curiously unruffled during the Serb propaganda furore that erupted following his condemnation of the Racak massacre. Hardliners within the Serbian Government demanded his immediate expulsion.

Yet Mr Walker remained upbeat throughout, and even took journalists out for a meal on what was supposedly his last night in Pristina. It now appears that Mr Walker had already heard the tapes showing that Mr Sainovic was in close contact with General Lukic, the police commander on the ground in Racak.



Sainovic: implicated in the Racak massacre

On the tapes General Lukic is initially told to "go in heavy" against Racak, a village well known as a frontline Kosovo Liberation Army position.

General Lukic and his fellow commanders in the province had been deeply angered by a series of KLA raids from Racak, the most recent of which had claimed the lives of three policemen. The sources said that Mr Sainovic was kept up to date throughout the operation by General Lukic, and at one point was told that the death toll stood at 22.

Yesterday Belgrade denied the existence of the tapes and an anonymous government official claimed it was "complete nonsense" to believe that Western intelligence could track military command messages between the Belgrade Government and Kosovo.

"This is a big manipulation by the CIA, who are preparing to put in Nato troops and eventually to bomb," said the official. An aide to Mr Walker, however, said that Belgrade had badly underestimated Western intelligence gathering in Kosovo. "Of course we can listen to conversations," he said, adding that he had "an ace up his sleeve".

Sources say the tapes record Mr Sainovic and General Lukic deciding to bar Louise Arbour, the international war crimes investigator, from entering Yugoslavia, and include discussions over how best to make the massacre look like a pitched battle.

Mr Sainovic advised that the bodies be reclaimed from the village mosque, which, after an intense bombardment, they were, at the cost of the life of the local police commander.

Diplomats in Belgrade yesterday pointed out that while the tapes clearly implicate both men in the operation, they do not prove that they planned the massacre. "Telling people to go in hard is not surprising after what had happened to the police beforehand," said one source.

News of the tapes came as Mr Milosevic's party rejected the six-nation Contact Group's plan for a Kosovo peace conference. "There never has been a peace conference with terrorists and why should Yugoslavia be the exception?" said Ivica Dacic, the Socialist Party spokesman.

YANNIS BEHRAKIS / REUTERS



A Kosovo Liberation Army guerrilla poses with his machinegun as rebels clashed with Yugoslav forces in a forest west of Podujevo yesterday

UN chief backs use of force

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

KOFI ANNAN, the United Nations Secretary-General, yesterday supported Nato's threat of force in Kosovo, saying that Bosnia had underlined its necessity when all else failed.

Mr Annan was speaking during his first official visit to the Nato headquarters in Brussels on the eve of today's meeting in London of foreign ministers of the six Contact Group nations. This is expected to propose a peace conference at a neutral European venue within the next two weeks.

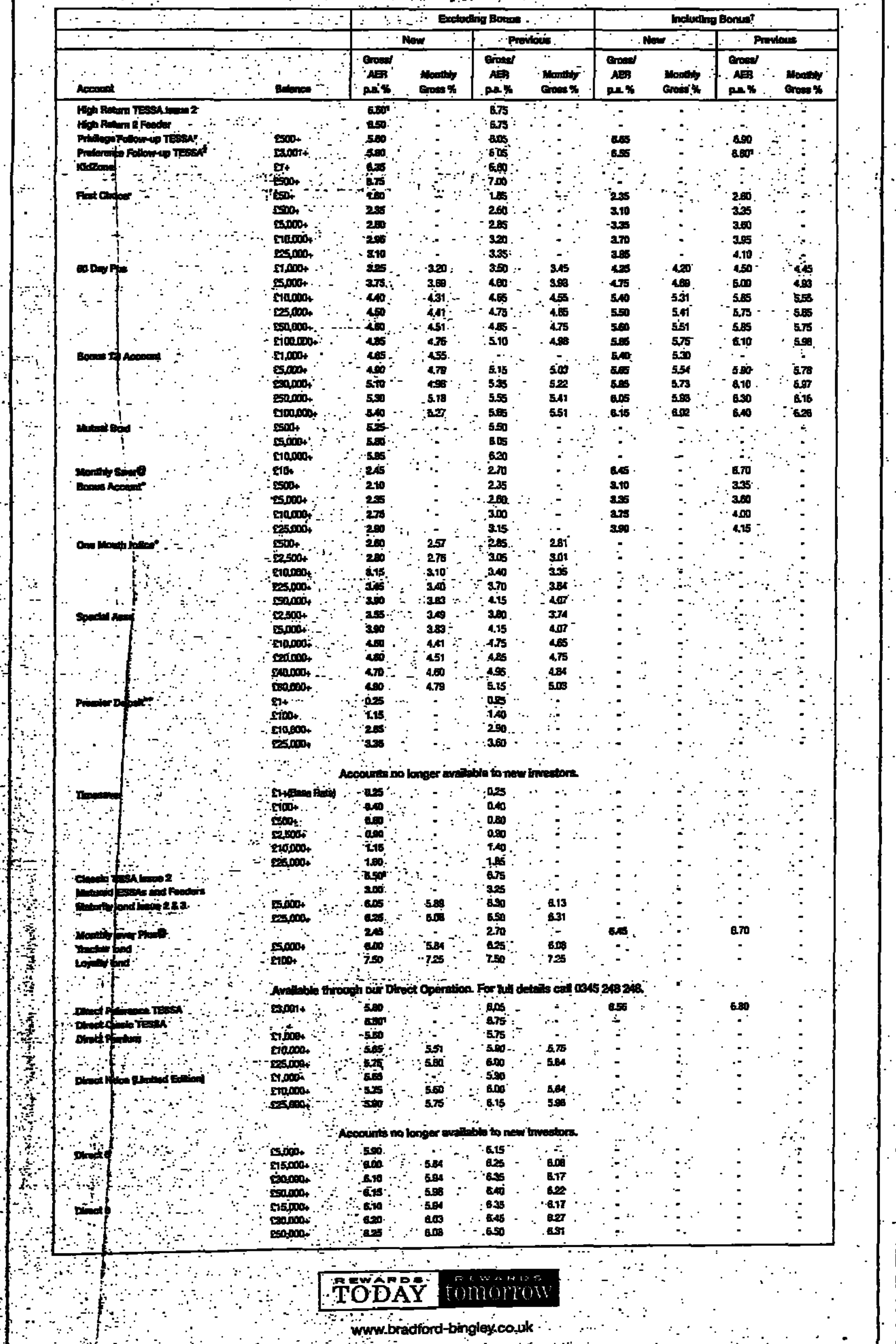
He told Nato ambassadors that the alliance must refine "the combination of force and diplomacy that is the key to peace in the Balkans". Recalling the "lessons of Bosnia", he said: "The bloody wars of the last decade have left us with no illusions about the difficulty of halting internal conflict by reason or by force — particularly against the wishes of the Government of a sovereign state." He added: "But nor have they left us with any illusions about the need to use force when all other means have failed."

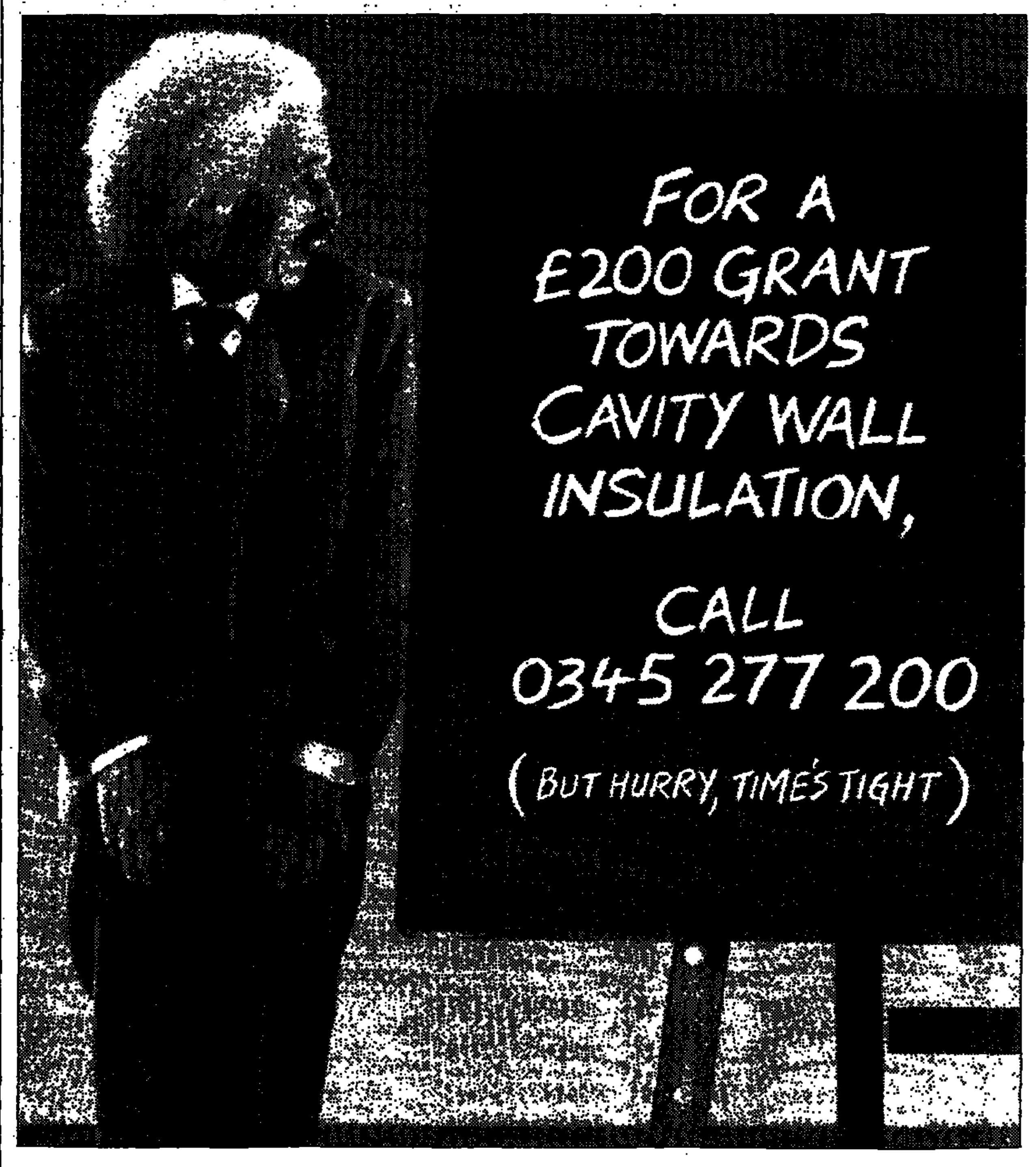
Mr Annan gave a warning that such a point might now have been reached in the former Yugoslavia. Javier Solana, Nato's Secretary-General, was due to give a solemn warning to Belgrade — probably later today — that Nato was prepared to launch airstrikes against military targets if the Government did not comply with its commitments to restrain its troops in Kosovo and begin immediate peace talks. Igor Ivanov, Russia's Foreign Minister, flew to Paris yesterday to discuss the latest violence in the turbulent province with Hubert Védrine, his French counterpart. Both will be in London today, together with Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, and the British, German and Italian Foreign Ministers, to decide on further pressure to get peace talks going.

Moscow is implacably opposed to Nato airstrikes and is expected to throw its diplomatic weight behind a proposal for a peace conference. Belgrade has in the past rejected such a conference, while the ethnic Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army has shown no interest in any diplomatic solution that leaves Kosovo as part of Yugoslavia. Mr Annan underlined the importance of learning the lessons of Bosnia "where horror threatens". The world had to be clear about the "credibility, legitimacy and morality of intervention and non-intervention". The only way to do that was to apply the lessons practically and emphatically.

In Kosovo horror was not just a threat but a reality. He wanted a political settlement. But in an apparent call to Nato not to lose its nerve, he said: "Let me ask only that we all — particularly those with the capacity to act — recall the lessons of Bosnia."

Nato is not expected to repeat its threat of intervention until after the Contact Group meeting so as not to embarrass the Russians.





US backs Jordan's heir apparent

Albright visit gives lie to US disappointment, Christopher Walker writes

THE American Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, yesterday paid a hastily arranged call on Jordan's novice Crown Prince in an attempt to put the weight of the United States behind him and to ensure there is no return to Jordan's old friendship with Iraq.

The symbolic 90-minute session, the first taste of international diplomacy for Prince Abdullah since being anointed on Monday, was confirmation by Washington that even in the unlikely event of King Hussein recovering from his latest cancer relapse, power has moved to a younger generation.

The talks came after further strong proof of tribal backing for the 36-year-old prince when hundreds of robed Beduin sheikhs converged on his hilltop palace to pledge allegiance. They coincided with pessimistic rumours about the King's health and the disclosure that a drastic deterioration in his condition on the plane from Jordan to the US had resulted in a false report spread in Israel and the Gulf that he was dead.



Beduin troops gather to salute Jordan's Crown Prince Abdullah, the heir apparent to the Hashemite kingdom, on his arrival at the royal palace in Amman yesterday

The conviction that the King, who has ruled for 47 years, is unlikely to return to his throne has unnerved Jordanians who have been kept in suspense by clumsy censorship. Some Amman shopkeepers were weeping openly last night at the latest health bulletins.

The anxiety of Jordanians was exacerbated by false reports spread by the monarch himself that he had fully recovered and cartoons in the Amman press last week showing the ogre of cancer being knocked out by the 63-year-old King in the guise of a boxer, waving his gloves up high.

The importance of yesterday's visit, inserted into Mrs Albright's crowded itinerary at the insistence of President Clinton, was underlined when *Babel*, the Baghdad paper owned by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, praised the ailing monarch's switch in the succession away from his brother, Hassan. The appointment of Prince Abdullah was described as the wisest move made by the King since Jordan sided with Saddam after his invasion of Kuwait.

The hand of Iraqi intelligence was seen in the new whispering campaign against Prince Hassan, roundly condemned by his brother for not criticising recent British and American airstrikes on Iraq. He is reviled by the Baghdad regime for urging it to introduce democracy and respect human rights.

Mrs Albright said she wanted to "make it very clear where the United States stands with Jordan". She added without elaboration that she had discussed with the prince "the issues he is facing in Jordan", understood to mean economic difficulties and potential campaigns destabilisation from Syria and Iraq.

By coincidence her visit came the day the final shipment of Jordan's military aid for 1998 arrived at the Red Sea port of Aqaba. The $25 million (£15 million) worth of infra-red equipment, anti-tank weapons, ammunition, telecommunications equipment and spare parts, bought the total of American aid for the year to $76 million.

The US Embassy disclosed that Washington was planning to provide a further $425 million worth in military aid over the next three years to the tiny kingdom.

Mrs Albright's impromptu trip was also seen as an attempt to press US influence with the new ruler to be, who is known for his closeness and affection for Britain, having a British mother, and who went to school and university in Britain. The King also served in the British army.

"Mrs Albright will not have said anything, but we all know America was miffed that Prince Hamzah with his American mother, Queen Noor, was not the son chosen to succeed," one European diplomat said.

On the record, the Secretary of State spoke warmly of Prince Abdullah and said they had "no expectation of changes" after his replacement of Hassan, deposed after 34 years as Crown Prince and seen as a potential focus for discontent.

"Abdullah is not an unknown quantity, he is very much a chip off the old block," said one senior US official, reflecting a widely-held view here that the Sandhurst-trained major-general and fearless parachute enthusiast has inherited many of his father's qualities.

In an open letter to the ailing King, now once again receiving treatment in the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, Prince Abdullah pledged to follow in his footsteps. Hundreds of advertisements taken out in the Jordanian press sought to emphasise the same point to prevent domestic splits. "This cub is from the lion king," declared one advertisement.

Israelis accused of hiding smallpox virus

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S Health Ministry has been accused of placing its citizens at risk by holding the smallpox virus in its laboratories, in breach of international agreements.

A report in today's Hebrew daily *Yedioth Aharonoth* will allege that the virus is not properly secured, placing in danger those members of the public who have not been vaccinated against the disease.

In a response to the report the Health Ministry said that its employees did not work with the smallpox virus in its laboratories but it stopped short of denying it had samples.

"I am shocked if this is true, it makes my flesh creep," said Professor Eitan Rubinstein, an infectious diseases expert at Tel Aviv University.

At the end of the 1970s, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the disease had been eradicated and stopped its vaccination programme. In the years following the announcement, member countries of the WHO, including Israel, agreed to destroy stocks of the virus in their laboratories: the virus had been kept for research purposes and to develop inoculation material.

The newspaper claims that some officials in the Israeli Health Ministry decided to ignore the agreement and continued to secretly hold samples of the virus, along with other types of dangerous material.

"Despite the clear danger to public health, the virus is kept in defective security conditions, and close to densely populated areas," the newspaper alleges.

Up until a few months ago the virus was being kept in a laboratory on Jaffa Road, the main thoroughfare in Jerusalem, according to the article.

Dr Lindsay Martinez, an expert on smallpox for the WHO, said: "The decision to destroy the virus applies to all member countries in the organisation. If there are laboratories which hold samples or any of the virus material, that is a dangerous and serious act."



Northern Iraq air defences come under renewed attack

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

AMERICAN military jets attacked an air defence site in northern Iraq yesterday as Washington underlined its determination to confront Baghdad's repeated challenges to the no-fly zones despite civilian casualties earlier this week.

Two F15s fired three precision-guided missiles in self-defence at the site near Mosul after they were targeted by Iraqi anti-aircraft fire, according to a spokeswoman at Incirlik airbase in southern Turkey, from where British and American aircraft police the northern air exclusion zone. Personnel at the base earlier donned suits to protect against a chemical weapons attack after a false alert of a possible Iraqi missile launch.

On Tuesday US warplanes attacked five sites in the Basra area, a day after a stray 2,000lb missile struck a residential area in the southern city of Basra itself. Iraq said at least 11 people died in what it portrayed as a deliberate attack on the civilian population. Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said that every effort would be made to avoid civilian casualties, but accused President Saddam Hussein of "putting his own citizens in harm's way by hiding his military assets in civilian communities".

She was speaking in Saudi Arabia after holding talks on Iraq with King Fahd and other Saudi leaders who have been vilified by Baghdad for supporting last month's Operation Desert Fox. Mrs Albright later told American troops at an airbase outside Riyadh that provides support for aircraft patrolling the southern no-fly zone: "You are the delivery system for a simple message to Saddam Hussein — quit bullying your neighbours." But senior Saudi officials appeared keen, in public at least, to distance the kingdom from Washington's calls for Saddam to be removed from power.

"They made clear that changes [illegible] have to come from within and we agreed," said James Rubin, Mrs Albright's spokesman.

Washington has offered military and financial support to several Iraqi opposition groups and appointed a diplomat, Frank Ricciardone, who was traveling with Mrs Albright, to co-ordinate the effort to topple Saddam.

☐ Baghdad: Iraq has started to reconstruct Baghdad buildings which were damaged in the US-led air and missile strikes last month, including two buildings of the ruling Baath pary, the *Al-Zawra* weekly nevspaper reported yesterday. It was the first time that the damage to the Baath party buildings has been reported in Iraq. *(Reuters)*

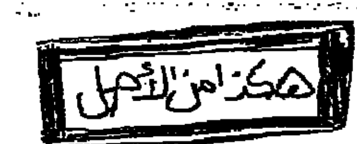
Saudis give US troops luxury base

Prince Sultan Air Base: US troops in Saudi Arabia will move on February 23 into a new high-security housing complex capable of accommodating up to 7,100 people.

The Saudis have built the £104-million complex with bomb shelters, perimeter sensors and barbed wire.

The 4,300 Americans enforcing Operation Southern Watch over Iraq will have a swimming pool, gym, squash courts and library at the base, 40 miles south of Riyadh.

Madeleine Albright, US Secretary of State, told troops there yesterday: "With your help we will continue to enforce the no-fly zones and leave no doubt that we will respond to provocation." *(AFP)*



Olympic lobbyist denies role in scandal

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AN EGYPTIAN-BORN middleman at the centre of the Salt Lake City scandal yesterday denied any involvement in bribing Olympic delegates and called for open voting on future venues to prevent further corruption.

Mahmoud El-Farnawani, 66, a former Libyan national volleyball coach who now runs a sporting souvenirs company in Canada, worked as a paid consultant for both Salt Lake City's and Sydney's winning Olympic bids.

After the Salt Lake City scandal broke, a Libyan and a Sudanese delegate he had lobbied on the cities' behalf were forced off the International Olympic Committee amid allegations that they had taken favours from the bid committee.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr El-Farnawani said: "If there is no open vote you can expect the same thing to happen again." Mr El-Farnawani is a member of a new profession of global lobbyists, known as "Olympic agents", who use their personal friendships with Olympic delegates for lucrative consulting contracts with cities eager to host the Games.

An accomplished volleyball player from a prominent Egyptian family, he moved to Libya after the 1967 Middle East war and emigrated to Canada in 1969 when Muammar Gaddafi came to power. He first became involved in Olympic bidding when he volunteered to help his new home city of Toronto to seek the 1996 Games.



El-Farnawani: called for system of open voting

Even though Toronto lost to Atlanta, Sydney and Salt Lake City sought his help in securing support for their bids for the summer and winter Olympics of 2000 and 2002.

"They call me an agent," Mr El-Farnawani said. "I do not like the term. I am a consultant because I make strategy, watching the other cities, capitalising on their mistakes." Employed by Sydney on a retainer of $3,500-$4,000 (£2,120-$2,420) a month, Mr El-Farnawani was present at a Monte Carlo hotel in September 1993 when the Olympic committee voted 45-43 to award the Games to Sydney.

The night before the vote, according to documents, Australian officials met two African delegates to promise $70,000 to their national Olympic committees.

Salt Lake City paid him $161,000 to lobby for the votes of Arab-African delegates from Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia. He provided personal details about the delegates to improve the bid city's chance of influencing them. Information ranged from the delegate's family problems to such trivia as whether to stock his hotel mini-bar with alcohol.

Although he cannot promise to deliver votes because of the current system of secret balloting, he does concede: "I can say I have a good chance to convince my very good friends." Mr El-Farnawani describes himself as a good friend of both the Libyan delegate and the Sudanese member forced off the IOC by the scandal.

He says he briefed Salt Lake City officials about the Libyan's devotion to his family of three sons and three daughters, but only learnt of the scholarship deal for his son about a year later. He says he had no knowledge of payments to the Sudanese.

"To kill the core of the corruption is to have an open vote," he says. "I owe you nothing. You owe me nothing."

Ganga hits back, page 53



SOILE KALLIO / REUTERS

A woman shields herself against the wind as temperatures in the Finnish village of Pokka fell to minus 51C

Scandinavians in grip of coldest snap for a century

FROM BIRGITTE HYGEN IN OSLO

A SEVERE cold snap has hit much of Scandinavia, gripping Norway, Sweden and Finland in some of the lowest temperatures recorded here this century. Schools were closed, shops and post offices abandoned, streets deserted and electricity frequently cut off as people struggled to keep warm.

In northern Norway near the Russian border the temperature fell to minus 56C (minus 69F) in one village — the lowest for 100 years.

In the Finnish town of Pokka, where the temperature was minus 51C, even hardy sledge dogs were allowed to sleep inside. Power cuts left many homes without heat for up to five hours. "We wondered how to spend the night, but then we remembered the sauna in the basement is wood heated," said one resident.

In Karasjok, high in the Arctic Circle, temperatures fell to minus 51.2C — just fractionally short of the all-time record of minus 51.4C endured in 1886.

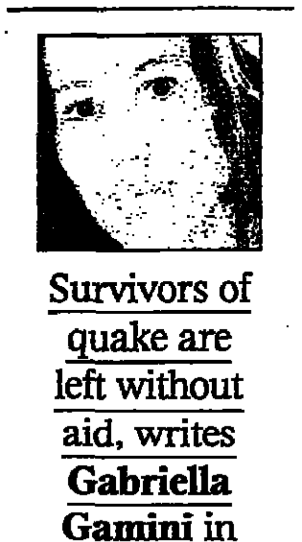
Television reporters demonstrated how cold it was by throwing cups of warm water into the air where it became a cloud of ice crystals before reaching the ground.

A plane bound for Oslo from Alta in the North was left frozen to the runway. Mobile telephone networks collapsed. Most people stayed in good spirits and marvelled at each record. The severe cold weather has been blamed on winds blowing in from Siberia. Forecasters say the cold will persist over the next few days.

☐ Moscow: Parts of Russia have experienced their coldest weather this century, the Russian Weather Service said. Temperatures below minus 40C in Archangel paralysed drawbridges over the North Dvina River, keeping some ships out of harbour. *(Reuters)*

Leading article, page 25

Hungry and homeless go on looting rampage



Survivors of quake are left without aid, writes **Gabriella Gamini** in Armenia

CHAOS and violence reigned in Colombia's stricken earthquake zone as thousands of homeless and hungry survivors went on a looting rampage. They claimed that no emergency relief had arrived since 20 cities and villages were hit by the quake on Monday.

In Armenia, the shattered capital of Quindio province, looting began on Wednesday morning after desperate survivors awoke to a third day without food or water, huddled in makeshift shelters. The frenzy soon spread across the city. Yesterday desperation led hundreds to fight their way into supermarkets and grocery shops in neighbouring Calarca and La Tebaida.

Meanwhile Colombian Red Cross officials confirmed that 880 bodies had been recovered from debris across Quindio, and said that attempts to find more survivors had been hampered by heavy rain. The death toll is expected to rise — Armenia officials believe it will exceed 2,000 — since only 30 per cent of the disaster area has been searched so far. Rescue teams and government officials still hope to find people alive under rubble, but as the search continued, Armenia's centre became a battle ground for looters and police, with local officials trying to co-ordinate aid workers.

Hundreds of dishevelled survivors clubbed and tore their way into one major supermarket branch in the heart of the city. Dozens ran out with a few goods while others had trolley-loads of food, lavatory paper and bottles of mineral water.

"This is not stealing," said Jaime Ramirez, who clutched bags of flour, beans and sugar. "My children have eaten nothing but bananas and have drunk only a few sips of water in the past 48 hours."

"We have not received as much as a glass of water from the Government," said one woman who stuffed potatoes and onions into a sack. "We are desperate."

Police and troops, deployed on Wednesday to prevent other supermarkets being invaded, were reported to have fired shots in the air and engaged in hand-to-hand scuffles.

But the officers I saw allowed looters through, saying: "These are people who have lost everything and are scrambling for food because they are starving." By yesterday afternoon, Armenia had been scoured for every morsel in the shops.

Colonel Dagoberto Garcia, Armenia's police chief, said the spree had not been spurred by hunger alone. "I saw TV images of people running out of supermarkets with bicycles and jewellery. That would not be the case if they were just hungry," he said.

The Government admits, however, that its relief operation has been inefficient and slow. On hearing of the looting, President Pastrana yesterday flew to Armenia to take charge. "We have to show the people that we have not abandoned them and that relief is on its way," he said.

Cecilia Ramirez, head of development for Quindio's provincial government, said: "The situation is critical. Only 5 per cent of the aid to survivors has been sent and handed out." Another state official said: "There is too much bureaucracy. As we sit around discussing what to send where, people are going hungry and thousands are dying under rubble." He called Red Cross, firefighting and civil defence teams "chaotic". Government officials in Bogotá said more than 94 tonnes of food, water, tents and medical supplies had been gathered at Catam Air Force base outside the capital. Journalists have seen supplies being sent, but when goods reach Armenia, according to one city airport official, most have been delivered to corrupt local leaders who are selling them at high prices.

At the Bogotá headquarters of Solidarity Centre, an aid organisation to which Colombians have sent donations for victims, boxes of food and medicine stood in the rain. "No one has come to collect them and we don't know when they will be sent," said a worker. Bad administration of foreign aid is not new. When funds poured in after the 1985 mud and rock avalanche that killed 25,000, swallowing the Andean town of Tolima, millions vanished, allegedly pocketed by corrupt local officials.

Nahora Pastrana, the President's wife, made a television appeal saying: "Be patient, we are sending tents, food and help for the children." International aid of $20 million (£12 million) has been pledged to help to restore the once prosperous coffee growing region. Britain has bought $50,000 of medical equipment and lavatories and donated another $100,000 to a medical charity.

Nineteen British firefighters and rescue workers were flown into Armenia on Wednesday night and teams of Russians, Mexican and Japanese experts have arrived with modern searching equipment.

One boy, 16, has been saved after three days under a collapsed five-storey building in Armenia. Three corpses had been recovered on Wednesday before rescuers heard the muffled calls of Daniel Andres.

"Here I am, Mummy. Don't worry, I am OK," Daniel, who suffered back injuries, said.

Later, he said he drank his urine to stay alive. "But I never gave up because I could hear people's voices."



OSWALDO PAEZ / AP

A looter is arrested in Armenia where Colombian earthquake survivors clashed with police and troops yesterday

Jakarta opens way to political freedom

FROM PATRICIA NUNAN IN JAKARTA

INDONESIA paved the way for a new era of political freedom yesterday as the country's Parliament unanimously approved sweeping reforms that promise democracy for the first time in four decades, and the military announced that it would comply with the will of the people on independence for East Timor.

The 500-member House of Representatives (DPR), once a rubber stamp for the ousted President Suharto, passed the laws after a special three-hour sitting and cleared the way for elections on June 7.

"What has been achieved today will be recorded in our nation as a new chapter heading towards the birth of a government which stands on the basis of the sovereignty of the people," Syarwan Hamid, the Home Affairs Minister said.

The reforms include a reduction in the DPR seats reserved for the military to 38 from 75, an end to restrictions allowing only three political parties and a proportional representation system for voting.

News of the reforms came as General Wiranto, head of the Armed Forces, announced that the military would accept the people's wishes for East Timor despite the great sacrifices and loss of life made by the Indonesian army.

"We have always pulled together to do the best for East Timor ... if it is decided that East Timor is no longer part of Indonesia, of course ... we will comply with it," he said.

The announcement fuelled speculation of an early release for Xanana Gusmao, the East Timorese political prisoner who led the separatist movement pitted against an occupation force that now numbers 20,000 Indonesian troops.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975 and declared it its 27th province a year later in a move that is still not recognised by the United Nations.

Yesterday's dramatic developments came a day after Ali Alatas, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, announced that the Government would propose opening the issue of granting East Timor full independence to legislative debate for the first time.



Official loses his job after colleagues are niggardly with knowledge

Damian Whitworth reports on the high price paid for remark deemed racist

A LINGUISTIC confusion has revealed just how strained are race relations in the capital. A local government officer has lost his job for using the word "niggardly", which has no relation to "nigger" but was deemed by colleagues to be offensive.

David Howard, who is white, reached for the word, which is believed to have originated in the 14th century, to explain at a meeting that he was going to have to be miserly with a government fund. "I will have to be niggardly with this fund because it's going to cost a lot of money," he said.

Two black aides looked stunned and one stormed out. Mr Howard tried to apologise but to no avail. When the worker who had walked out demanded an apology, Mr Howard said, he was given no chance to explain the word he was using. Rumours flew, complaints flocked in and Mr Howard, perhaps a little hastily, resigned as head of the Office of Public Advocate, handling citizens' complaints. Anthony Williams, the black Mayor, accepted the resignation.

Again, perhaps, he too was too hasty. He said his aide showed poor judgment even though he "didn't say anything that was in itself racist". Later he backpedalled a little, launching an investigation and suggesting Mr Howard might be allowed to return to the staff, but in a different job, if he is ultimately judged to have done nothing wrong.

"There's quite a bit of hubbub, quite a bit of buzz about it," said Kojo Nnamdi, black host of a talk-show. "It's indicative of the state of race relations in Washington. A simple explanation should have sufficed. When it comes to race in Washington, apparently a simple explanation doesn't get it." Many others have argued that Mr Howard was guilty of failing to realise the word could be confusing.

Marcus Marshall, 22, a black employee in a sporting goods store, said Mr Howard did the right thing in stepping down.

"I don't agree with him saying that kind of word. He should be punished because it's so close to a degrading word."

The offending word does not even appear in *Forbidden American English*, a dictionary of 1,400 "highly offensive and often inflammatory" words and phrases.

The possibility of confusion, however, is raised in *A Dictionary of Modern American Usage*. The word has no connection to the racial slur, it says, but some speakers and writers have come to shun it to avoid misunderstandings.

Questions Senators want to ask key witnesses

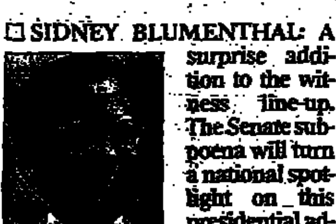
□ MONICA LEWINSKY: Now 25, she rivals the late Diana, Princess of Wales, as the most famous woman in the world because of her affair with the President, first exposed a year and a week ago (Bronwen Maddox writes). Maximum sensation value but thin pickings for the prosecutors.

Meanwhile, the Senate risks annoying Americans who would dearly like her testimony to be televised, but will otherwise have to make do with Andrew Morton's book.

Just possibly, she could help prosecutors to stand up their charge of perjury — but only if they interrogated her about which "body parts" the President touched.

Ms Lewinsky has already testified that she thinks the President was not obstructing justice in giving her gifts or getting her a job.

□ VERNON JORDAN: He is Bill Clinton's First Friend, a long-time soulmate from Arkansas days; partner of a leading Washington law firm. If the President confided in anyone about Monica it would have been Mr Jordan, many believe. Prosecutors want to ask him about whether his efforts to get Monica a job were an attempt by Mr Clinton to obstruct justice.



□ SIDNEY BLUMENTHAL: A surprise addition to the witness line-up. The Senate subpoena will turn a national spotlight on this presidential adviser and former journalist, a shadowy but central figure in the Clinton entourage. Passionately loyal to the Clintons, and a particularly good friend of Hillary, he has worked closely with Downing Street on "Third Way" policies.

Prosecutors want to question him on whether the President deliberately lied to him about Monica before Mr Blumenthal gave evidence to the grand jury.

Democrats deride Senate 'show trial' as public tires of political wrangle

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE White House began to focus yesterday on the new peril of a criminal prosecution of President Clinton after he leaves office, as the Senate trudged on with what Democrats have jeeringly dubbed a "show trial".

The White House team is split between political advisers who want to "quit while we're ahead" and allow the trial to wrap up early, and legal eagles who fear that this could expose Mr Clinton to later criminal prosecution.

Trent Lott, the Senate Majority Leader, maintains that a deal which ends the trial within two weeks is still possible. But yesterday many from both sides said that that was wishful thinking.

The "show trial" jibe stems from Democrats' new confidence, after Wednesday's twin Senate votes, that Republicans will never muster the two-thirds majority to oust Mr Clinton from office. But huge uncertainty over the length and conduct of the trial remains, with the White House's response the most important wild card.

The White House yesterday tried to blame the Republicans for extending the trial by voting to call witnesses, while keeping open the option that it might prolong the process by summoning its own witnesses in turn.

Joe Lockhart, a spokesman, said: "We'll make a decision on whether we need witnesses when the managers have finished their part of the process."

Americans understand, he claimed, "that the fact that this trial continues to go on is the responsibility of the Republican majority". The new worry for the White House is that a quick trial could leave unchallenged testimony which might be the basis for a future prosecution of Mr Clinton even if he remains in office.

They are also concerned that the "compromise" of censuring the President without removing him from office could add to Mr Clinton's future legal risks, if the motion said that he broke the law.

Despite the White House's fears, there is growing support from senators of both parties to bring the trial to a rapid end, following signs that public tolerance is ebbing.

A Gallup/*USA Today* poll published yesterday found that 57 per cent of voters disapproved of the way that Senate Republicans were handling the trial, and that only a third approved.

But in a clear warning for Democrats, the percentage of voters approving of the way they are handling it has fallen by eight points to 45 per cent in just two weeks. Democratic Senator Carl Levin of Michigan said yesterday: "A prompt ending is the number one priority in my book, even though it may mean some unfairness to the President, who by rights should have the opportunity to call his own witnesses."

As the Senate yesterday struggled to reach a deal, Mr Lott returned again and again to the Senate floor to ask the presiding judge, Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist for more time.

In the Senate corridors, senators paced anxiously, waiting for bells to ring to signal a return to the floor, or for the beepers with which each one has been equipped to alert them that their party was summoning them for yet another huddled meeting to gauge support for the latest plan.

The toughest sticking point yesterday afternoon was whether to have live witnesses or to have videotaped testimony, and if a recording was made, whether it should be released to the public.

□ **Jobs fillip:** Aiming to boost the skills of workers, Mr Clinton is proposing $965 million (£592 million) in new spending to retrain workers, teach illiterate adults to read and increase job opportunities for youth at risk.

The latest budget details include increased grants for adult literacy programmes, a free telephone number connecting displaced workers to unemployment and retraining resources, and $50 million to create jobs for disadvantaged youth.

WIN McNAMEE / REUTERS



White House defence lawyers Charles Ruff, centre, and David Kendall, right, at the Capitol

Plea by Pope saves triple killer from death sentence

Mease killed a couple and their teenage grandson

Jefferson City, Missouri: A personal plea by the Pope led yesterday to a convicted triple murderer having his death sentence commuted to life without parole.

Darrell Mease had originally been scheduled to die at the same time as the Pope was visiting Missouri this week. Mel Carnahan, the Baptist Governor of the state, said: "In reaching this decision, I took into account the extraordinary circumstances of the Pope's request and the historical significance of the papal visit to St Louis and the state of Missouri. I continue to support capital punishment, but after careful consideration of his direct and personal appeal, and because of a deep and abiding respect for the pontiff and all he represents, I decided last night to grant his request."

Mease, convicted of murdering a drug partner, the man's wife and their handicapped teenage grandson in 1988, had been scheduled to die yesterday — the second day of the Pope's two-day visit.

The execution date had been set in November by the state Supreme Court. Four days later, the court changed it to February 10. The court gave no reason but many believed it was because someone had realised the first date coincided with the papal visit.

The Pope praised the Governor's decision as a gesture of "profound humanity". The Mease case was a rare victory for the Pope, who has seen pleas to spare other US inmates in Missouri and other states rejected.

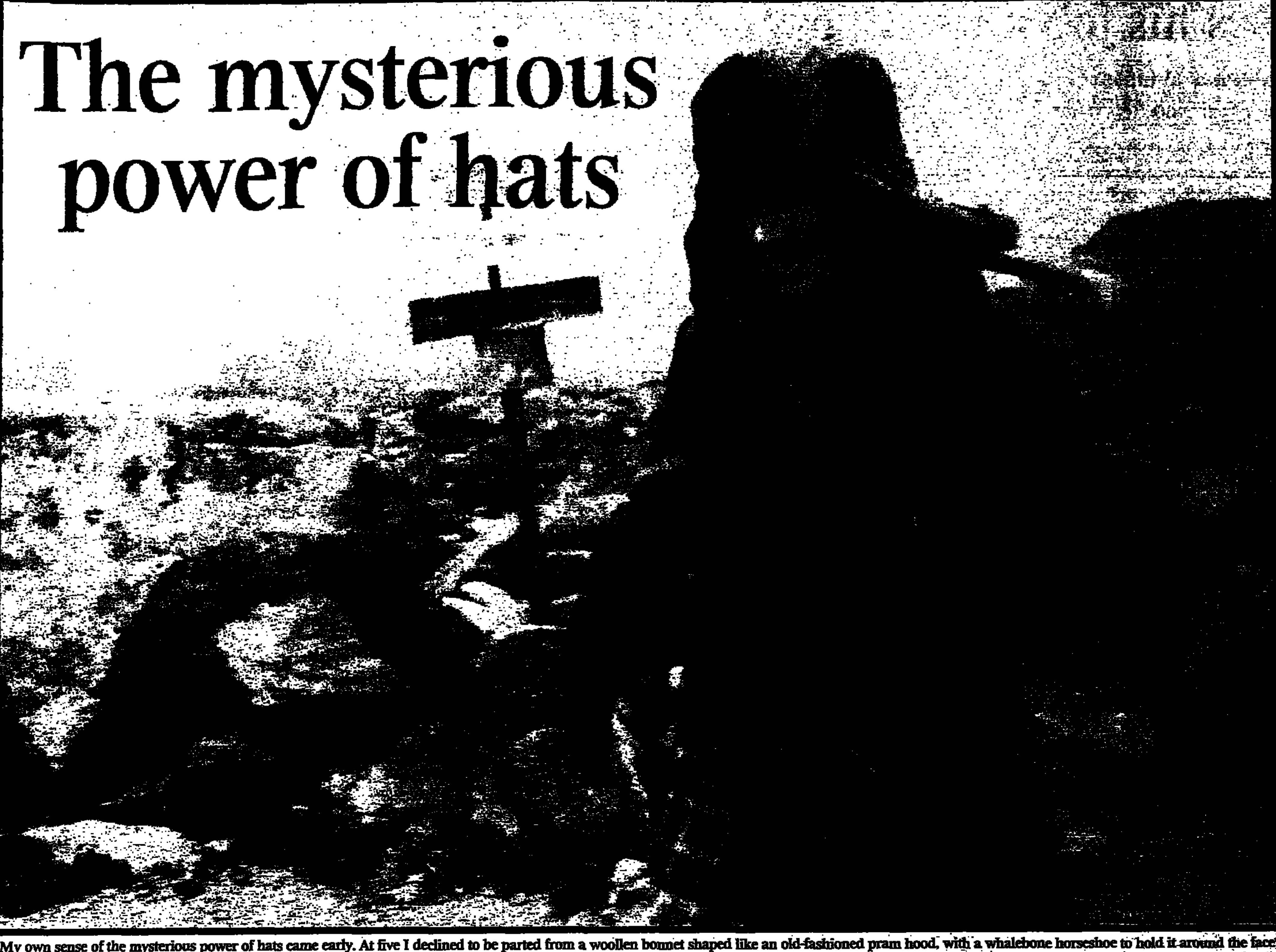
He spoke out strongly during his visit against capital punishment. Mr Carnahan declined to spare the life of another inmate for whom the Pope had sought clemency in 1991.

Joaquín Navarro-Valls, the Vatican chief spokesman, noted that Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican Secretary of State, had met privately with the Governor during the Pope's stay in St Louis this week to present, in the pontiff's name, a request for clemency for Mease.

Last year the Pope asked his envoy in Washington to relay his appeal for Karla Faye Tucker, who was convicted in the 1983 pickaxe slayings of two people in Houston. She was executed. In July 1997 the Pope's appeal on behalf of Joseph O'Dell, an inmate in Virginia, galvanised a campaign in Italy against capital punishment. O'Dell was executed for the 1985 rape, torture and murder of a woman in Virginia. By the time of O'Dell's appeal, the Pope had made about a half-dozen pleas for clemency by US authorities.

An early, more publicised one was for Paula Cooper, in 1987 an 18-year-old death-row inmate in Indiana. She had stabbed an elderly Bible teacher. Her sentence was commuted to 60 years. *(AP)*

The mysterious power of hats



"My own sense of the mysterious power of hats came early. At five I declined to be parted from a woollen bonnet shaped like an old-fashioned pram hood, with a whalebone horseshoe to hold it around the face"

Every garment tells a story, but of all the clothes in the wardrobe, the most loquacious is the hat. Hats are aphoristic. *Like it or not, by wearing one, you are allowing the essence of your personality to be revealed by an indiscreet hemisphere of stiffened fabric.*

It is not just monarchs, guardsmen and cardinals who find themselves reduced to a symbol by their headgear. *Think of all the other* hats that have become a kind of shorthand for the person underneath them — Dot Cotton's shrewish turban; Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's sweet-pea Dolly Vardens; Benny from *Crossroads'* pathetic woolly tea cosy and its tough-guy *antonym, the black knitted skull*cap fancied by burglars, terrorists, members of the special forces and anyone else up to macho no good in the shrubbery.

Then there are mouldy green cowpats favoured as leisurewear by denizens of the House of Lords and working men's clubs, and the remarkable head sculpture mod*elled by Isabella Blow — the Peggy* Guggenheim of modern millinery.

> A good hat can have the same result as a facelift

My own sense of the mysterious power of hats came early. At five I declined to be parted from a blue and white woollen bonnet. It was shaped like an old-fashioned pram hood, with a springy whalebone horseshoe to *hold it firm around the* face and a white pompom on the back. I wore it continually, indoors and out, for some weeks. Looking at the photographs, I suspect I had decided that it was better than the ruthlessly ugly pudding-bowl haircut underneath it.

*There followed a battle — or rath*er a seven-year war of attrition — against the loathsome school hats (grey felt in winter, rigid straw in summer) to be worn at all times outside the school gates. Unable to defend them on aesthetic grounds, our headmistress fell back on science, *arguing that a col*umn of heat rose straight out of the top of our heads, to be wasted in the surrounding atmosphere, unless we trapped it under our hats.

CUTTING EDGE

It didn't work. We ran about bare-headed, doing our bit for global warming, until the day we left *school, when our interest in milli*nery unaccountably revived. I had, in quick succession, a little black beret like a French Resistance heroine, a large felt halo, as worn by Colette's Gigi, a hunting bowler with a veil like the one belonging to Trollope's dashing Vi Effingham, and a Persian lamb toque, for looking gloomy on stations in the manner of Anna Karenina.

These days, if I had a literary fashion icon, I suppose it would be Tabitha Twitchett, who is so ground down by domesticity that she goes about hatless. This does not mean, however, that I have lost interest in hats. On the contrary, a good hat can have, at a fraction of the *cost, the same re*sult as a facelift, offering a dramatically flattering background for a pretty profile, or making eyes seem huge and jewellike. It is an effect not lost on Lady Weinberg, who is often photographed peering out from under a cartwheel brim with eyes like sap*phire headlamps.*

If you feel the need for this kind of lift, now is a good time for hat-hunting. A hat is, as scientifically demonstrated by my headmistress, an essential shield against the weather. And if your shield should happen to come from Philip Treacy or Stephen Jones — well, whose business is that but your own?

Since it is midwinter the shops *are filling up nicely with pastel* cruise wear. But pockets persist, in the bigger stores, of winter hats, satisfactorily reduced. One of the best sales is at Liberty, where a glossy *faux* beaver flowerpot by Stephen Jones is £84 (£169); he also does an amazing, furry, broad-brimmed curate's hat, £116 (£220), and if you had a winter wedding to go to, you could divert all eyes from the bride in his black velvet cartwheel trimmed with white marabou and black cocks' feather, £297 (£595). Less flash, but just as chic, are Philip Treacy's black felt fez trimmed with curled cocks' feathers, £77 (£125), his felt leopard-print pixie hat, £112.50 (£225), and his giraffe-print bowler with curled feathers, £87.50 (£175). If you insist on a sensible hat, Liberty's own-label *faux* beaver flowerpot with a large furry bow is £20 (£39). Heather Allan's brown and silver Davy Crockett hat with two dangling tails is £130, and Fred Bare's lilac quilted-satin trapper's hat, lined in fake fur, is £42 (£85).

> The *faux* beaver flowerpot is a sensible choice

At Harvey Nichols, Gilly Forge's black "mink" with a turn-up brim is £49.95 (£100); her "snow leopard" toque is £55 (£110) and a super-glam white "mink" pillbox by Philip Somerville is £31.95 (£65). Accessorize has jolly striped ski hats for £9.99 (£12.99), a gypsyish black velvet hat with crimson embroidered roses, £12.49 (£24.99), a pale blue angora butcher's-boy cap for £7.49 (£14.99) and a nubbly black bouclé hat with a face-framing brim for £12.49 (£24.99).

So far I have bought nothing. I think I am trying to decide between Brora's cashmere pull-on, £19, Agnès B's small black cloud of an alpaca beret, £40, and La Maison de la Fausse Fourroure's chinchilla with its endearing paw-print lining, £22.50 (£45).

My son, however, has other ideas. In Peter Jones he spotted Karl Donoghue's wildly eccentric shock of curly black Mongolian lamb. For just £79 (£115), he tells me, I can have a hat that will lend me the violent allure of Dennis the Menace's identical twin sister.

SIX OF THE BEST

Keep ties neat and tidy



SILVER WIRE, £5.95
Simple flat modern shape holds 10 ties, although they can slip off the metal prongs.
Muji, Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1 (0181-348 3848).
6/10

LEATHER, £575
Absurdly extravagant, but a beautifully crafted way to store three ties.
Hermès, 179 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-823 1014).
8/10

PLASTIC WALL HANGER, £8.99
Unattractive box with weak self-adhesive tabs – it needs to be secured with screws. Holds 30 ties.
Leifheit Snoby at Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1 (0171-629 1234). **8/10**

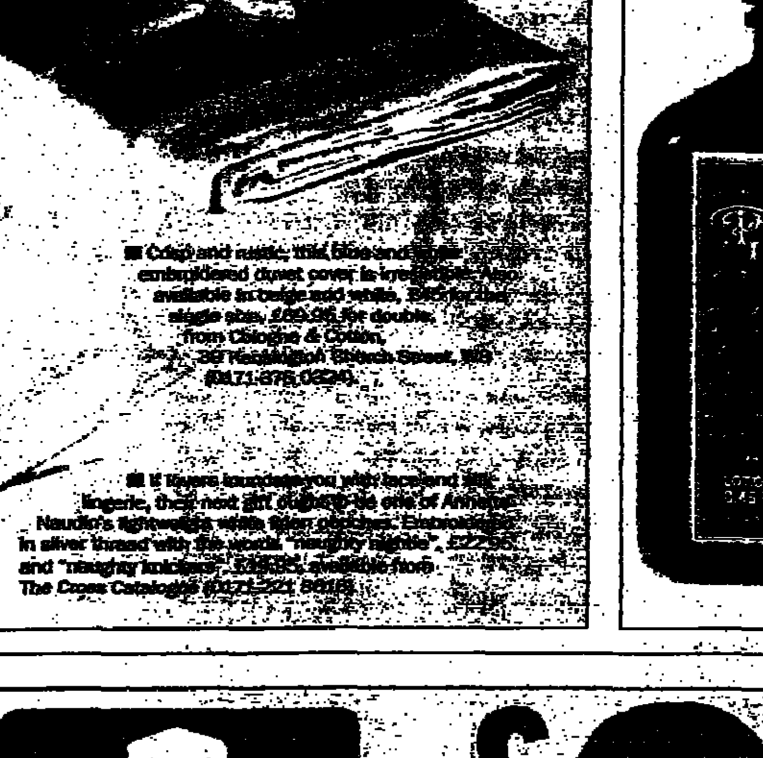
STRAIGHT BLOCK, £16.50
Smart combination of cedar and brass pins to be mounted on a wall. Takes 24 ties. Ideal for a dressing room, but less suitable for a bedroom.
Woodlore from the Holding Company, 241-245 Kings Road, SW3 (0171-610 9160). **8/10**

FLAT HANGER, £10
Flat shape that takes up very little space yet still holds 20 ties, but threading them through the metal rings can be fiddly.
Debenhams branches nationwide (0171-408 4444).
7/10

CEDAR HANGER, £24.75
Large solid cedar hanger that holds 40 ties. A bobble at the end of each pin stops them from falling off.
Woodlore at The Holding Company, as before. **10/10**

COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT

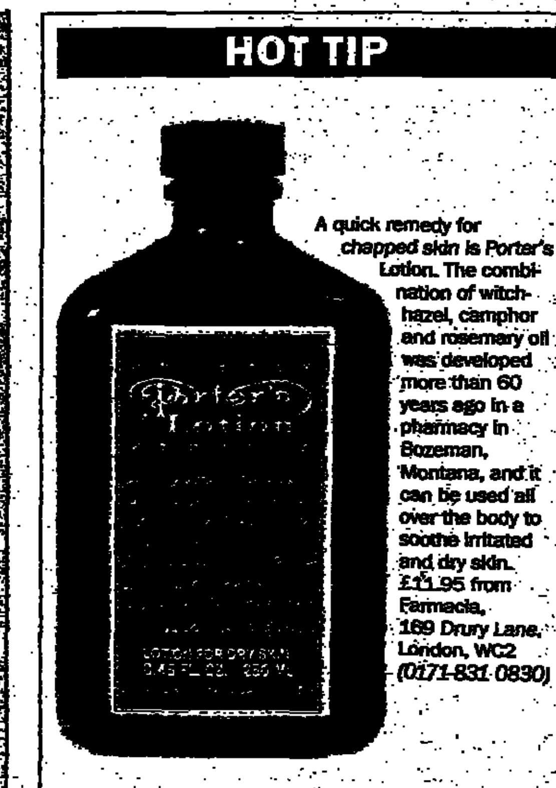
Objects of desire



■ Crisp and rustic, this blue and [illegible] embroidered duvet cover is [illegible]. Also available in beige and white, [illegible] single size, £89.95 for double, from Cologne & Cotton, 39 Kensington Church Street, W8 (0171-376 0324).

■ If [illegible] lingerie, [illegible] Naudin's [illegible] in silver thread with the words "naughty nightie", £22.95, and "naughty knickers", [illegible], available from The Cross Catalogue (0171-221 8016).

HOT TIP



A quick remedy for *chapped skin* is Porter's Lotion. The combination of witch-hazel, camphor and rosemary oil was developed more than 60 years ago in a pharmacy in Bozeman, Montana, and it can be used all over the body to soothe irritated and dry skin. £11.95 from Farmacia, 169 Drury Lane, London, WC2 *(0171-831 0830)*



Time for a chat: in the age of electronic communication, people are losing the simple social skills of empathy, good manners, intuition and tolerance

Losing the human touch

A report says that we are spending too much time communicating through technology. **Celia Brayfield** calls for the return of personal contact

Say goodbye to human life: we can get by with a human moment. The latest thinking from American business gurus is that employers should introduce a "human moment" into the working day. This would be an interlude in which e-mailing has to stop and people must talk to each other.

In an eight-page study in the *Harvard Business Review* this week, David Hallowell, a psychologist specialising in executive stress, defined the human moment as "an authentic psychological encounter that can happen only when two people share the same physical space". He recommends it for workers who have "fallen victim to virtuality". This means so much of their communication is through non-human tools such as e-mail, voicemail and automated response systems, that they are losing the ability to relate to each other.

At last. A name for it, that deep depression that grips the soul on a day when you have sent ten e-mails which nobody has answered, been hassled to buy Viagra by a fax mailing system and wasted half an hour on the telephone to Ikea, finding out that the widget you need is not available in birch veneer. We are all victims of virtuality now.

But this perk for the technostressed worker is not meant as a kind of virtual tea break, a blessed window in which people can be themselves instead of cogs in a machine. No, no, no. The human moment is intended to "build confidence and trust at work", so that people can graft harder, sell more stuff and generate more profit. So no change there.

The man has a point, even if he makes it in psychobabble. Alienation is creeping into our lives like the parasitic moss which crept over the fertile fields of Ancient Ireland and turned them into bogs. Nobody believes the answering system when it thanks them for calling Ikea. E-mails may be generated by human beings, but the conventions of the medium rule out politeness; thanking anybody for anything is a waste of screen.

New communication tools are stripping out layers of our humanity — conversation, charm, empathy, intuition, tolerance and acceptance. Dr Hallowell would probably call these social skills. Our grandmothers would have regarded them as good manners. Whichever, they are abilities we need to live together and they are developed by practice, at the cost of some exposure and embarrassment low on the learning curve.

People are less and less able to be people, especially those who find detachment more comfortable than talking anyway. Thus the teenage anorak who, a decade ago, would have been dragged to a school dance and achieved eye contact once in the evening, will now stay away and think he is talking to girls in Internet chat rooms. He can make dates, earn money and download half his education without having to wash, dress or leave his room. And a lot of them do.

This behaviour is not restricted to teenagers. There are many marriages in which the computer has become the third person in the relationship and the one to turn to in times of trouble. Those in "people professions" are beginning to panic; PRs complain that nobody goes to parties any longer, sales executives cannot pitch without a programme to follow. I know of one company which has a problem finding a receptionist who can smile and say "hello".

Virtual culture, like drug culture, has its own values by which the victims judge their antisocial behaviour to be normal. Consider the case of Samuel Simpson, aged two. Sam is a pre-school Nintendo nerd. He spends all his waking time playing video games, throws tantrums if he has to eat or have his nappy changed, and his favourite word is "Die!" His mother claims that she is lucky because "I have friends with children the same age and you see them clutching at their mums all the time and demanding attention. I don't get that with Sam."

The ultimate casualty of this new emotional illiteracy is love. People no longer talk over the garden fence; nobody is content with the boy next door any more. Like Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks in Nora Ephron's film *You've Got Mail*, they go on a Net-quest for their ideal partner. Dating has become an ordeal because people treat each other like commodities. They look for love not with open hearts but with checklists of desirable attributes and the compulsion to tick off the lot. They cannot cope with individuality, and see any giving they might do as conditional on the other party meeting their specifications.

"I told them from day one what I liked and he is very, very good," said Carla Germaine, the "blind-date bride" who met her husband at the altar after a Birmingham radio station matched them without a meeting. With a free flat and a holiday in the Bahamas as rewards, they had a compatibility assessment in place of chemistry, faced a lie detector instead of dating and took psychometric tests instead of meeting each other's families. "How can she not be my perfect partner?" asked the groom. The couple were chosen from 210 applicants.

The people most disturbed by virtual victimhood are those who know most about it — the young. The cult cartoon *South Park* satirised the condition in an episode in which flesh-eating zombies terrorised a town. Children called the police, only to hear an automated voice say: "If your town is being terrorised by flesh-eating zombies, press one . . ."

People under 20 are worried. A survey of attitudes among young people in Europe, conducted by the GfK market research company, found that their main fear was the loneliness caused by electronic working. Employers may find that they have to offer more than a human moment if they want to employ human beings at all.

Hate the taxman? No, make him a duke

Many people wonder why journalists are among the last people to file their tax returns. In particular, why it is that even now — with only three days to go before we incur mandatory financial penalties from the Inland Revenue for late returns — many of us are still going through the shoebox in which we keep our important financial paperwork and business receipts, desperately trying to calculate the following.

(a) Why the shoebox is full of old wedding invitations, thank-you letters for parties attended in 1993 but still awaiting a stamp before being posted, children's milk teeth wrapped in tissues and mysteriously hidden here for safe-keeping by the tooth fairy, and an emergency cache of rubber bands large enough to depress Malaysian latex prices were I to offload them on to the free market (which I might).

(b) Whether this means that we have sent all our earnings details, royalty statements, chits and invoices to our friends as wedding presents, or left them under children's pillows in lieu of pound coins, or maybe slipped pound coins under the pillows of sleeping hostesses to thank them for a weekend stay.

(c) Whether — if none of the above applies, and provided we are not planning to offset any capital gains liabilities resulting from the amortisation of agricultural outbuildings against our dividends from foreign debentures — we should just be ticking the "no" box and moving straight on to Question 16.5 on the tax return?

MAN ON THE SIDE

JOE JOSEPH

The answer, of course, is that journalists like to work as close as possible to our deadlines because the adrenalin that courses through our bodies as the clock ticks often triggers the magical phrase that removes all the anxiety from the situation, the phrase being "Put the shoebox away again, quickly".

We also leave everything to the last minute because we are ruthlessly trained to work with the most recent information available. In this we have made a rod for our own backs, since it is a technique that forces us to rely for information solely on that morning's newspapers (supplemented by plausible gossip invented by a colleague who has just returned from lunch with a minister), regardless of how much we might prefer to spend hours in the library researching a topic.

And this year we have struck lucky, because the latest tax-payment information — provided by Tony Blair this very week — is that life is about far more than money. The point he is trying to make is that instead of simply writing out large cheques to nurses, teachers and Inland Revenue staff, we should be making the effort to remind our tax collectors that work in the public sector has its own unique rewards — rewards which, in the Prime Minister's own moving words, "money can't buy".

So, acting on this up-to-the-minute fiscal guidance, I have decided against sending my tax collector another insulting cheque. This year I'm going to reward this worthy public servant in another, more fulfilling way — once again in line with Tony Blair's latest thinking — by making him a life peer.

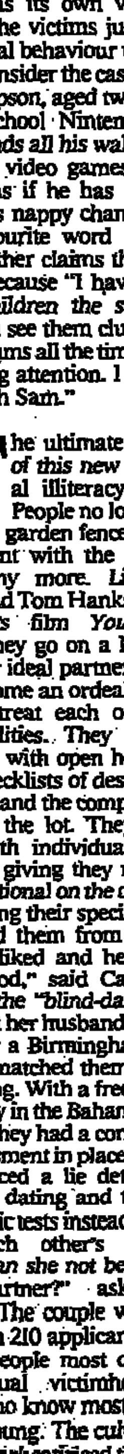
But just because Downing Street wants to reward public servants with a seat in the Lords, there is no reason that we should also be so timid. I myself intend to go even further: in order to give my local tax inspector a little extra vocational satisfaction, as well as some career incentive, I'll also be dropping a subtle hint in my answer to Question 27.14 that should my earnings improve dramatically during the forthcoming tax year, I might well consider making him a marquess in lieu of my 1998-99 tax payment. And if my prospects continue to blossom, who knows, he might find himself a duke before long.

This also seems a more elegant way to conduct the nation's tax affairs. While we are all in favour of taxes and the vital things they are spent on — the National Health Service, helping the unemployed, ensuring there is a always a seat on Concorde for Jack Cunningham — tax collection has become rather drab. Handing tax inspectors seats in the Lords in lieu of taxes would be more in keeping with Britain's colourful history of revenue-raising. Income tax itself is a recent tax-paying convention. If you visited the exhibition held at Somerset House this month to mark the 200th anniversary of income tax, you would have learnt that taxes used to be levied on far less dreary barometers of wealth than cash, such as chimneys, windows, hair powder, servants and even dogs.

Pooch tax was introduced at the end of the 18th century as one of a range of money-raising schemes to finance the Napoleonic Wars. Tax assessors would visit your home in the middle of the night, give the front door a kick and then guess at the number of dogs you owned by the volume of barking and by how many snouts appeared at the window, thereby making tax assessors the first people who actually tried to evaluate how much that doggy in the window was worth.

Such dogged behaviour might lead you to think that all taxmen are mad. But personally, I think they deserve a medal.

After all, why let them be dogged when we can so easily lionise them instead?





Sling your hook, Mr Redwood

Hague should have the nerve to face down his old lags

It was in the summer immediately after the general election that I first advocated early retirement for the Tory old lags in the Shadow Cabinet. What were they still doing there? Didn't they have homes to go to, wives to see, children to discover, new avenues to pursue? They were patently doing their party no good. Why couldn't they move on and get a life?

The article was written more in friendship than in malice. I know some of the wives concerned and had watched the sacrifices that they had to endure while their husbands were in government. The men had had a good run, the Michael Howards, Peter Lilleys and John Redwoods of this world, holding many of the great offices of state between them. Why could they not content themselves with their places in history, leave the suffocating and somewhat demeaning world of Shadow frontbench politics, and learn to be carefree human beings again?

For Messrs Howard, Lilley and Redwood must surely know that they will never become party leader, let alone Prime Minister. And assuming that Labour does not lose the next election, which is as safe an assumption in politics as any, William Hague must be prepared to keep them in his team for another Parliament and a half. Does John Redwood really want to wait until 2006 just to become Trade and Industry Secretary?

This week the Tory party was convulsed by suggestions that Mr Hague intended to sack the old guard and bring in some fresh, new talent. From his point of view, that would be exactly the right thing to do, sooner rather than later. Sadly, it seems, he won't. And it does not look as if they will go, of their own accord, with dignity intact.

Mary Ann Sieghart

It is easy to see why he appointed them in the first place. He wanted the other leadership contenders onside to promote a semblance of unity. (Only Kenneth Clarke had the sense to say no.) And, at just 36, Mr Hague needed older and wiser heads to advise him. But what seemed a temporary tiding-over has now set into a permanent mould. Lord Parkinson did his promised year and a quarter; Brian Mawhinney went (what on earth was he doing there in the first place?); but the others cling on, losing the Tories a percentage point in the polls each time they appear on *Newsnight*. When I was on a *Question Time* panel recently with John Redwood, I could feel the instant prickly hostility of the audience towards him. So could he: as the evening progressed, his pallor greyed and his scowl set hard.

Whenever people start to weary of new Labour, they look at old Tories and despair. Yesterday's MORI poll showed the extraordinary spectacle of Labour rising by two points to its highest level since autumn 1997, and the Conservatives dropping by three, even though voters were highly critical of Labour "sleaze". But the hapless Tory leader still does not get it. He fell into the trap of issuing a strong denial of the reshuffle story, thereby ensuring that the old guard's position in the Shadow Cabinet is now stronger than ever. Does he have no inkling of the effect these men have on the public? When I suggest that such reminders of the past are debilitating for the Tories, the rejoinder always comes: then why is Ann Widdecombe so popular? Well, she too was hated until she made her own glorious break with the past by denouncing Mr Howard as having "something of the night about him". Anyone who could say that must surely have something to recommend her. But her colleagues have made no such break.

Of course these old lags could turn against Mr Hague on the back benches and make his life even more miserable. Yesterday, Michael Heseltine was at it. The former Deputy Prime Minister was attacking Mr Hague for the only decent policy the Tories have — indeed the only policy they have at all — opposition to the euro. Mr Hague may fear more of these spats. But he should fear keeping the old lags more, for they will never be popular, whereas standing up to them could be. People see these rows as "Tory divisions" only if the leader treats them as threats, not opportunities. The best response Mr Hague has made so far has been to deride his critics as "yesterday's men". It may sound harsh to the party faithful, but it resounds in the country.

You have to sympathise with Mr Hague: if these are yesterday's men, it is hard to see where tomorrow's people are coming from. The new Shadow Cabinet entrants are hardly enthralling: even the thoughtful, clever ones such as Francis Maude and David Heathcoat-Amory have left no heavier a mark than a fly alighting on a leaf. The layer below them is almost uniformly unimpressive. Mr Hague may have to look to the 1997 intake to refresh his ranks.

But, if he culls the old guard and distances himself properly from the Major regime, he can turn the affair to his advantage. When Tony Blair took on the Left, he compounded his popularity. These battles, in the hands of a successful leader, are seen not as party divisions, but as brave moves against unpopular foes.

The trouble is that Mr Hague, in his complacency, makes the late John Smith look dynamic. His policy review has produced nothing yet, and promises nothing, even in draft, until later this year. Voters may turn against Labour, but they will not transfer their affections to the Tories until they know what the party is for. At the moment, all they see is a bunch of middle-aged men whom they thought they had already resoundingly rejected. Is it any wonder that Mr Hague's party languishes so?

maryann.sieghart@the-times.co.uk



Metroland-on-Avon

The countryside has become just another stultifying suburban sprawl

I used to think houses in the country were for saints or fools. They must be preserved. But they ate fortunes, ruined marriages and dulled the culture of the mind. Above all they seduced the urban middle class to a Virgilian pretence, that the answer to some overwhelming question lay "in the soil". The weekend flight to the country was a slither back down the evolutionary tree. At the far end of the M4 lay only primeval slime. Small wonder youth and enterprise ran screaming to the city.

Yet without the country and its houses, townsmen realised they would have nothing to look at on long drives. They panicked. They flattered the occupiers of the landscape. They subsidised their wurzles and gave them Jilly Cooper and Joanna Trollope. They converted Jane Austen into *The Archers* and gave Michelin stars to country-house hotels. It worked a treat. Since the last war, millions of pounds have been sunk into conserving rural England. We owe its custodians, some of them, our thanks not our derision.

Country Life this week publishes a survey of this process as a review of 20 years of house advertisements. It offers a fascinating glimpse of middle-class migration across southern England. The story is one of steady colonisation. As agriculture recedes, it is replaced by townies fleeing the city. We see families racing down motorways, estate cars crammed with wellies, crying children and supplies from Marks & Spencer. They peer through the Friday rain in search of that corner of a furtive field that is forever Islington. They must have a place in the country. Everyone they know has a place in the country. Come hell or highwater, they cannot be seen in London at weekends.

The *Country Life* advertisements plot this exotic invasion. They begin with the heavy guns of the great estates, and end in the rattling infantry of old rectories and farmhouses. The battlefield is the territory over which urban England means to make each new advance. After the last war, the "second-homers" leapfrogged the old suburbs. They read Wodehouse and sought, like Psmith at Blandings, "*urbs in rure*". They wanted town sophistication but with the social furniture subtly rearranged. They wanted to talk town to "affinity couples", but they also wanted to talk country to the occasional local. They are like memsahibs with a few words of Hindi.

During the 1970s the survey has them flooding the North Downs and Chilterns. Surrey, Berkshire and Kent embraced three quarters of all houses advertised in the magazine. Then came the motorways and access to what *Country Life* calls "real country". The Home Counties slumped to just 15 per cent of the total. By the end of the 1980s, buyers were swarming into Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire. The royals did for the Cotswolds what their Hanoverian forebears had done for Richmond and Kew. In 1970 "a place in Gloucestershire" meant sheep and straw, and went for £60,000 with land. By 1990 it was dusted with pure gold at ten times that price. In that decade of royal marriages and Highgrove chic, the number of houses for sale in that county doubled. Thousands of farmers must have cashed in and vanished.

Simon Jenkins

Gloucestershire, says *Country Life*, is now eclipsed by points west. A third of the houses surveyed today are in the West Country, territory opened up by the twin salients of the M5 and the A303. Dorset and Wiltshire have fallen. Somerset and Devon are the goal. Journey times are near intolerable. There are Londoners who will spend eight hours, an entire working day, travelling to and from a weekend house. There cannot be a hill or dale, a down, combe or marsh in southern England without its colony. They cry with one voice. Can anyone do Taunton in two hours? Where is the "adorable man who 'does' in the village"? Whom do we know and whom can we possibly mix? Where round here can you get decent pâté, or a signal for the mobile, or help?

The houses too have changed. Nobody now wants unconverted houses. Old barns, cottages and windmills are too much hassle. In the 1970s the advertisements never mentioned kitchens. Now they all do, preferably with Agas. Listed too are nanny's rooms, saunas and swimming pools. Big gardens are a nuisance. Nobody wants land. In 1980, 28 per cent of advertised houses boasted more than ten acres. Just 4 per cent do today. In 1980 a third of the market was for houses with farms. Farms are scarcely mentioned today. Houses are required fully equipped and with neat, easily managed grounds. In other words, demand for rural property costing more than £250,000 has "suburbanised".

Where next? With the virtual collapse of countryside development control under the Tories, southern England is set to become Virginia Water from Hyde Park to Land's End. An ersatz ruralism is spreading the breadth of the land. Nor is the requirement just for weekend retreats. The biggest growth is in medium-sized houses, with four reception rooms and "family quarters". Buyers are life-changers. They plan four-day weekends, telecommuting, "seeing if we can live in the country while the children are small". Still dependent on the city for income, such buyers see countryside as a backcloth to a "virtual" urban lifestyle. They want accessible seclusion, a dormitory online to civilisation. They inhabit what geographers call ex-urbia. It is Metroland reborn a hundred miles away.

Perhaps because I have mostly lived in cities, I find such homes-from-home curiously disrupted. Families are neither real town nor real country, but migratory, like diplomats carrying friends and baggage in their car boots. Few have the time or taste for country pursuits, yet even less for the cultural stimuli and social serendipity of the city. The sparrow on the shoulder is not for them, Thoreau's noble epaulette. Yet they constantly bewail that they have "no time for art galleries". Theirs is not the majestic calm of Lord Emsworth's pig. It is the restlessness of someone always worrying if he should be at the other end of a motorway.

In the past three years I have visited probably half the villages in England. Midweek, many of those cited in *Country Life* advertisements look as if they have been hit by the plague. They are ghostly stage sets, awaiting the arrival of strolling players. You can drive through many villages on a Tuesday or Wednesday and see not a living soul. For the dormitory suburb, now read the dormitory landscape. A puppy is not just for Christmas. Perhaps a country house is not just for weekends. Apart from anything else, it asks to be robbed.

Yet this implies as romantic a vision of countryside as does Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia*. The future of the landscape lies not in breeding some new class of kulaks. It lies in the same newcomers, second-homers, M4 somnambulists and Volvo vorticists to whom *Country Life* is appealing. Whether we like it or not, these are the true patrons of the new landscape. Without them, the country would be dead. Some will scuttle back to the city, bored out of their minds. But most will leave behind some lucrative flotsam, tenants, work-in-hand, and abandoned spouses with alimony, to prop up the local church and the village store, to comfort the vicar and sponsor the local arts festival. They will finance what the rest of us profess to love.

After the last war, Oxford's School of Geography surveyed the rural Midlands and concluded that depopulation and free trade would kill it. The farms would fall to ruin. The villages would empty. The landscape would return to scrub forest. This could not have been more wrong. The English countryside has pulled off one of the coups of economic history. Unable to support itself, it has sucked taxes and attention out from the city. It has beguiled, seduced and often impoverished any who might find urban life too tough a challenge. Hundreds of thousands of Britons pour into the countryside every weekend, hurling themselves in sacrifice on the altar of ruralism.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Ffion's switch

FFION JENKINS nearly became an MP — in the Liberal Democrat interest. William Hague's good lady wife was headhunted by the Lib Dems as an election candidate shortly before William caught her eye. As a spirited member of the Taffia (she was a private secretary in the Welsh Office and her father, Emyr, is chief executive of the Welsh Arts Council), she was seen by local party workers as a prime candidate to take over from Alex Carlile.

He said he was giving up his Montgomery seat in June 1996 to spend more time with his family and his lucrative billet at the Bar. The proposal was put to Ffion, and it was several days before the Lib Dems were told to seek another candidate. By December 1996 she was being squired by William, and Lembit Opik — now an outside candidate for the party leadership — had secured the nomination.

● *HEREDITARY peers are succumbing to their Armageddon with gusto. Lord Strathclyde, the toff leader of the Conservatives (below), tells me he is considering calling his new daughter Biankaaa, after the eloquent* EastEnder *(below).*



Talking back

BREAKFAST sofa wars: Charlie Whelan is to take on Richard and Judy. Gordon Brown's erstwhile spin-doctor is to present a daytime chat show on Channel 4.

Whelan will grill former victims (Labour ministers, etc) and give a beginner's guide to spinology. "I am hoping to get Mr Blair and Mr Hague to appear," he tells me. Mandelson, as I first disclosed, is too busy house-hunting.

● *JOHNNY DEPP seems to share the sensible shoe brigade's passion for Monet. Dressed in foppish beret and baggy shirt, the actor waltzed into a Soho art shop with a svelte French muse and demanded the largest canvas in the shop.*

Food fight

PROTESTERS against genetically modified food will deliver 1,000 letters to No 10 next week. But their companions, a six-legged pantomime cow and a mutant, fish-tailed tomato will be excluded for "security reasons".

● *JAMIE CANN'S admission that sex takes no more than 2 per cent of a Labour MP's life did not surprise colleagues. As a man who gained the nickname of "Canned" after a drink-drive conviction, he clearly enjoys other entertainments more.*



Good act

THE distinction between appearance and reality: an early philosophical lesson. A well-constructed blonde raced from the first night of *Oklahoma!* to the cast party to seduce the leading man, Hugh Jackman, who plays a swaggering cowboy. "Imagine that deep voice singing in the bath," she cooed. So imagine her reaction when she saw a preening thesp in a white cravat.

● *ROGER BLACK finds his job as the presenter of a BBC low-fat health video so dispiriting that the sprinter runs from the film crew to revive himself with chocolate.*

Broad vision

TONY BANKS: polymath. "I like Emile Zola and Gianfranco Zola, but national morale is boosted by wins on the football pitch more than operas at Covent Garden."

JASPER GERARD

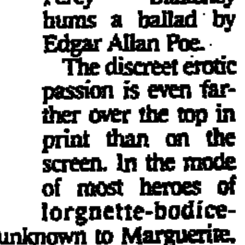
'Anachronistic, no doubt, but demmit, what could be more fun than a warm bath of stylish tosh on a Sunday night?'

Lud, Madam! It's "That *demned*, elusive Pimpernel." Demned, *demned*, not damned. The BBC television cloak-and-dagger, Tricolour-and-tripe, guillotine-and-galliard historicals about the Scarlet Pimpernel on Sunday nights drives me back to the children's bookshelf. And what tosh the books and the programmes are. But what enjoyable tosh for those of us who cannot meet a swash without wondering how it would perform when buckled.

And part of the attraction is their camp and unconvincing Regency court jargon. Odd's life and La-de-da! Demned was not how Regency bucks pronounced it. But the Baroness Orczy version is what sticks in the childhood memory. It was batty of the Beeb to chuck away the barb of the plot by letting us know from the beginning that the Scarlet Pimpernel is Sir Percy Blakeney. That is meant to come as a shock to the simple. Parbleu. And kitting Sir Percy out with a James Bond set of secret tools in his underwear is simply ridiculous. That Old Harrovian fop, whose clothes were the talk of the *jeunesse dorée* of London, would never have allowed such a bulky tricoteuse's huswife to spoil the cut of his shot satin knickerbockers.

If you want a thrilling but historical account of the French Revolution in English, you do better to read *The Tale of Two Cities*, Hilary Mantel, Richard Cobb or Carlyle. Orczy is so infatuated with aristos that she ignores the rights of man and the causes of the Revolution. Remember La Bruyère's crashing crescendo on peasants before the Revolution: *"L'on voit certains animaux farouches. . ."* These wild animals, male and female, black, sun-scorched and livid, grubbing in the mud with invincible stubbornness. When they stand up, they have human faces. You might not believe this, but they are *human beings*.

Philip Howard



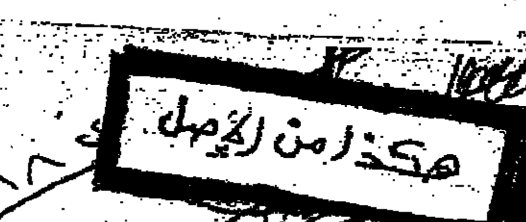
In spite (because?) of being a shady Hungarian aristo by birth, Orczy is crashingly chauvinist and snobbish about England. Her frequent references to the Englishness of certain qualities itself sounds distinctly unEnglish. Marguerite is continually referred to as "the most intelligent woman in Europe", but this claim is never substantiated by anything she does or says. Nor by the apparent Wonderbra models who have played her, since Merle Oberon in the 1934 film that made the names of Leslie Howard and Raymond Massie. The books and television are sport for anachronism-watchers, as when Sir Percy Blakeney hums a ballad by Edgar Allan Poe.

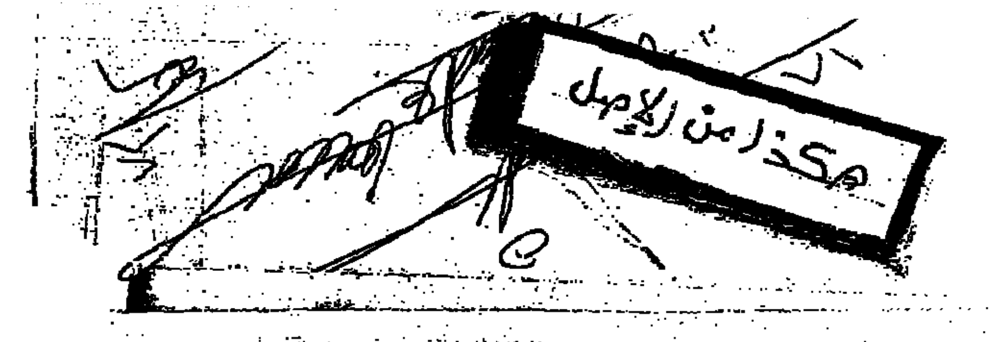
The discreet erotic passion is even farther over the top in print than on the screen. In the mode of most heroes of lorgnette-bodice-oglers, unknown to Marguerite, Percy is besotted with her. "He was but a man, blindly, passionately in love, and as soon as her light footstep had died away within the house, he knelt down on the terrace steps, and in the very madness of his love he kissed one by one the places where her small foot had trodden, and the stone balustrade there where her tiny hand had rested last." Cor. Or rather, Zounds and demmit, citoyen.

But historical romances are a fine genre. If we leave out Virgil and Geoffrey of Monmouth, Walter Scott is a lively introduction to medieval Scotland and Ivanhoe gadzookery. Our young imaginations are attracted to Romans by *Puck of Pook's Hill* and *I, Claudius*; to Hadrian by Yourcenar; to Harold and Normans by *The Golden Warrior*; *Gone With the Wind* and Lampedusa; Rose Macaulay on Herrick's Devonshire and Milton's Cambridge on the eve of the Civil War; Renault and Sutcliff . . .

Historical novelists can personalise, take sides, omit the boring bits, romanticise, delight, fill in the gaps with inventions. When they know their history, they can bring it to life and lead us on to the real thing, such as the Osborne letters or Gibbon. Most of us are more interested in people than in abstractions, in human nature than economics or geopolitics.

In this game, the Scarlet Pimpernel plays nowhere near the premier league. But his success on stage and screen is a phenomenon. As a little-known writer, Orczy was offered £30 for all rights by a niggardly publisher. Haughtily (cannily?) she turned him down. And in the following year the stage production made Sir Percy the star he has remained. Chauvelin is a deliciously complex villain. And those things do best please me/ That do fall preposterously. The best in this kind are but shadows; and the worst are no worse, If imagination amend them. So on Sunday night, before the rigours of Monday morning, a warm bath of stylish tosh is just what the Revolution ordered.







THE BELL DEBATE

The Lords, *The Times* and complaints against the press

When *The Times* serialised *Cries Unheard*, Gitta Sereny's book about the child murderer Mary Bell, last spring, we knew that our decision would be controversial. The crimes were terrible; so was the deprived childhood that shaped the killer. We knew that some of our readers would feel strongly that we were wrong, the more so because money had been paid to Bell for co-operating with the author. Sharp emotions were then aroused by the hounding, by tabloid newspapers, of Mary Bell, forcing her to reveal her true identity to her innocent daughter. We went ahead with serialisation, not lightly, but because we were convinced that a clearer understanding of the making of young murderers, and their subsequent handling by the penal system, is firmly in the public interest, and that this book made an important contribution to that necessary exploration.

Last July, after exhaustive inquiry, the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) found that *The Times* had acted entirely within the voluntary code of journalistic practice which it is our firm policy to respect. But so central was the case to questions of freedom, responsibility and the public interest in a democracy that discussion continues. We publish today an extended report of Wednesday night's thoughtful debate on this subject in the House of Lords. The purpose of Lord McNally, who initiated the debate, extended far beyond his seemingly narrow question about "liaison" between the Home Office and the PCC. He sought to make a case for widening the PCC's duties to intervene even when the offended parties do not, as the Bell family did not, lodge a complaint; to give it quasi-judicial powers, including those to impose punitive fines; and for a law to prohibit direct or indirect payments to criminals outright, without the possibility of a public interest defence. The ensuing debate, for which the Lords mustered great legal and practical expertise, not only vindicated the stance of *The Times* in this particular case. The arguments advanced are a necessary corrective to those who, for the sincerest of motives, would wish to see the already extensive restrictions on freedom of information in this country further tightened by statute.

Lord Wakeham, the PCC's chairman, rehearsed the grounds for its decision that, in the Bell case, there was an "overwhelming" case for serialisation. "The public interest," he said, "oozes from every pore of the book and in turn from the extracts from it which were serialised." It was "the first authoritative account of how the penal system deals with child criminals" and, as such, "was important and deserved a wide audience". It was a view that found broad and authoritative support. Equally significant, on civil rights grounds and in terms of Article 10 of the European Convention, were the caveats about a blanket ban on payments to criminals. And although the harassment of Mary Bell appalled their lordships as much as it appalled this newspaper at the time, the debate showed wide understanding that an expansion of the PCC's powers could create more problems, especially for those who cannot afford lawyers, than it would solve.

During the extensive debates on incorporating the European Convention, Lord Wakeham eventually managed to convince the Government that to give the PCC legal powers would be incompatible with self-regulation. It would undermine the PCC's authority with the newspapers which it polices, an authority which Lord Wakeham has greatly reinforced. For the Government, Lord Williams of Mostyn acknowledges that the PCC code already bars the press from making payments to criminals or their associates except where publication is "in the public interest and payment is necessary for this to be done". That, he said, set a "high hurdle" for *The Times* — as it does for any newspaper. We would not wish it to be lower.

We would equally endorse his wider verdict, that there are dangers in "producing an over-formal tribunal", when the purpose is to remedy press wrongs to individuals while recognising that "a free press is bound, on occasion, to overstep the limits". This paper strives not to do so; we are pleased that our judgment in the Bell case has again been widely endorsed. Where truth and sensibilities come into conflict, there can never be an easy balance. Good journalism pursues truth without malice; but journalists know that what they find, and publish, may sometimes test the limits of acceptability.

POLLS APART

The quality of public services is Blair's real challenge

Twenty months beyond a landslide victory, Tony Blair and his Government continue to defy the laws of political gravity. In the Prime Minister's case it seems that what goes up stays there. After a month in which the assorted antics of Peter Mandelson, Geoffrey Robinson, Charlie Whelan and Robin Cook have rightly dominated the headlines, even committed supporters of the Labour Party assumed that there might be some modest impact on public opinion. In fact, as the MORI polls published in *The Times* over the past two days have illustrated, the Government has not only survived the events of the past four weeks but emerged with enhanced popularity.

This is not to suggest that the country has neither noticed nor disapproved of the display that has been placed before it. More than half of the electorate believes that the Government has not upheld high standards in public life — a sharp decline from the 55 per cent approval on this issue recorded in November 1997. These are not insignificant numbers. And yet the Mandelson affair appears to have reinforced cynicism about politics and politicians in general rather than about Mr Blair and his colleagues. On this, as many other matters, the Conservative Party has not yet rendered itself sufficiently credible with voters to benefit from the Cabinet's discomfort.

The other factor that may explain the extension of this longest of honeymoons concerns perceptions of the economy. The index of confidence (the balance between those with positive and negative economic expectations), which slumped dramatically last summer and reached the extraordinary low point of minus 46 points in October, has revived to stand at only half that level today. A full-blown recession would still be a powerful threat to Labour's standing. The Government may well, however, be able to accommodate any slowdown short of such a slump.

Every set of silver linings has a cloud and for Mr Blair the most potent test may prove to be not mass unemployment but expectations of an improvement in the quality of public services. The Government is entering what the Prime Minister has described as "the year of delivery". There is plenty of evidence in our poll that the country is impatiently expecting signs of progress in these quarters. The conditions in the National Health Service (49 per cent), and education/schools (32 per cent), have become the top two issues for the electorate.

Some 47 per cent of voters do not believe that the Government has kept its pre-election promises. Discontent is sharply focused on these key areas. But there is little prospect that the Government will throw pots of money at the problems. Gordon Brown made it clear to both Cabinet and House of Commons yesterday that the public sector pay settlements to be announced early next week must be met within the cash limits that he set six months ago. The fragile balance of the economy has left him little alternative. This means that increased salaries will come at the expense of other initiatives. That in turn will limit ministers' freedom of manoeuvre.

For the past two years the Government has been at liberty to pass blame for public discontent with such services to its predecessor. The end of this period is fast approaching. At that point, if present policies have not persuaded the public of real change, the Government will have to choose between more expenditure and more radicalism. Without a compelling alternative, this may not greatly diminish new Labour's popularity; but it will reveal much more about the political character of the Prime Minister and his Government.

SOME LIKE IT COLD

Winter in Britain is a terrible disappointment

Where are the snows of yesteryear? Already the days are getting longer, the daffodils are pushing through the earth, the winds are blowing temperately from the South West and, apart from Scotland, barely a flake of snow has fallen. Shakespeare's winter of icicles hanging by the wall is an ancestral memory; Victorian scenes of fur-clad ladies, snowy taverns and snorting horses prancing through the snow now seem more unreal than mawkish. There is as much chance of sunbathing in January as there is of building a snowman. Put away the padded anoraks and take off those fur hats: there is no bracing chill to be kept at bay, merely the clinging damp of the latest depression to settle over the British Isles.

For those tired of slush, thaw and premature blooms, Scandinavia may be a last refuge. Lapland has just endured the coldest night in a century, with temperatures of -51C. That is off the scale for old-fashioned mercury thermometers, and can be measured only by alcohol-based ones. But in such cold, little alcohol is likely to be left undrunk. The Lapps are a hardy lot, but even they find it irksome when power lines snap, sledge dogs have to stay indoors and trains will not stop because the airbrakes fail. The Finns, however, came up with an indigenous solution: they lit their saunas, took off their clothes and spent the night in steamy nudity.

Surviving winter's grip is still a challenge in these northern lands. The temperate British sometimes long for extremes. Some recent summers, though not the last, have approached Mediterranean heat. But winters are a disappointment. Will Britons ever again be able to roast oxen on the Thames? When will blood be nipped, ways be foul and milk come frozen home in pail? To everything a season: our land may be green and pleasant, but surely not in winter. Some like it cold.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Bill restrictive of news reporting'

From the President of the Guild of Editors

Sir, As drafted, the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Bill, now before a Commons committee (letters, January 25), would have made it impossible to report in any meaningful way the Dunblane massacre, nursery nurse Lisa Potts's heroism or the murder of head teacher Philip Lawrence.

The Bill would have prevented full reporting of the case against Jonathan Aitken for putting lies into a statement by his teenage daughter at a libel trial.

It would also have prevented the newspaper which I edit, *The News* of Portsmouth, from identifying the three teenage occupants of the car involved in a recent crash with a minibus outside Waterlooville, Hampshire, in which three people were killed (report, January 6). A fortnight later we are still receiving calls and letters thanking us for revealing their names.

In all these stories, the common factor is the involvement of people under the age of 18 whose identities, even as victims or witnesses, would be protected from the time of any allegation by the intended new law. The Bill would seem to ensure the disappearance of an entire generation from the news reports of almost any form of crime or potentially criminal activity.

This imbalance between shielding vulnerable young people and disclosing, in the public interest, events in which they have become involved is being resisted by editors.

From my own experience in Portsmouth it seems the public are firmly on our side, resenting the imposition of any more restrictive laws which will enable people to escape accountability for their actions.

Yours etc,
GEOFF ELLIOTT,
President,
Guild of Editors,
Bloomsbury House,
74-77 Great Russell Street,
London WC1B 3DA.
January 28.

Viewers' choice on television sex

From Lady Howe of Aberavon, Chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Commission

Sir, No broadcaster likes to be criticised, and David Elstein (letter, January 27) makes, as usual, a spirited defence of Channel 5's position on transmitting "erotic fiction". But can I put the decision of the Broadcasting Standards Commission in context?

The commission has a responsibility under the Broadcasting Act to identify what it sees as developing trends within broadcasting (in this case with regard to the use of sex), to identify what its consequences might be, and to stimulate legitimate public debate.

Our most recent research, *Sex and Sensibility*, published this month (details, January 7), showed clearly that audiences expect sexual portrayal to be justified by its context, whether in drama or a factual programme. This research, in line with that conducted by the ITC, also suggests there is a different expectation about what should be available on free-to-air, as opposed to pay television. The commission took the research findings into account when reaching its conclusions. All of this is a long way, both in time and in tone, from the trial of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*.

After much careful discussion, the commission reached findings on the specific programmes which were the subject of complaint, including sexual violence in a film, *Centerfold*, not mentioned by Mr Elstein. In our judgment the point of these programmes was clearly erotic. These findings are consistent with our recently revised code. We acted throughout within the mandate given by Parliament. There has been no abuse of procedures.

A commitment to "uncut movies" in a licence application is not the same as a specific promise of erotic films, as Mr Elstein appears to believe. But that is between Channel 5 and the ITC.

The commission works openly and independently. The decisions of the commissioners, all publicly appointed, can be in favour of the broadcaster as well as the complainant. They are all published with an account of the reasoning that lies behind them. That is a useful and important public service on sensitive issues which are a matter of legitimate public interest but about which opinion is divided. The issue is not the commission's relevance but whether the public should have a right to redress.

Yours faithfully,
ELSPETH HOWE,
Chairman, Broadcasting Standards Commission,
7 The Sanctuary, SW1P 3JS.
January 27.

From the Director of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association

Sir, It is evident from the sexually explicit programmes and films screened by Channels 4 and 5 that the Independent Television Commission's programme code is defective.

It is, for instance, beyond understanding how the content of the recent 13-part series on Channel 5, *Sex and Shopping*, and *Renegade tv: Sex Pests*, transmitted by Channel 4 last October, comply either with Section 1.5 of the ITC code which states

> The portrayal of sexual behaviour and of nudity needs to be defensible in context and presented with tact and discretion

or with the Broadcasting Act, which requires that programmes should not offend "good taste or decency".

What is needed, above all, is a regulatory authority which will devise a well-defined code and will have the strength and conviction to enforce it for the common good.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN C. BEYER,
Director, National Viewers' and Listeners' Association,
All Saints House, High Street,
Colchester, Essex CO1 1UG.
nationalvala@compuserve.com
January 27.

Rewriting history to suit the screen

From Dr Munro Price

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("The camera often lies", January 22) is right: the increasingly cavalier attitude of British film and television to basic historical fact is getting hard to take.

The latest instance, BBC1's drama offering of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, inhabits a fantasy world in which Robespierre was in power and the Terror in place in 1792, and France governed by a body, so far unknown to historians, named the Committee of General Surveillance (*sic*).

Though one accepts the need for some dramatic licence, the current tendency reveals a basic contempt for education and knowledge of the past: it piles on the solecisms, perhaps assuming that we are far too ignorant to notice the distortions we witness, and that if some of us do, we no longer care.

As a teacher of history, who feels strongly that a fair and accurate sense of the past is important for the health of any society, I find this discouraging.

Yours faithfully,
MUNRO PRICE,
Department of European Studies,
University of Bradford,
Bradford, West Yorkshire BD7 1DP.
January 24.

Unmistakably British

From Mr Duncan Francies

Sir, Philip Howard is right (article, January 22): Britishness is unmistakable. I have lived almost two years in this charming country, trying every day to be accepted as just another ordinary Greek guy. But the more I try the less I succeed.

Is it my slightly pink face and lack of decisive authority? Is it my ancient Burberry in the winter or M&S slacks in the summer? Should I chew gum and smoke cigarettes? Should I get angry and wave my arms about when they refuse to speak back to me in Greek?

And why do they speak English anyway, not French, German, Italian or Albanian? If anyone can tell me what it is about me that declares my nationality with such certainty at a hundred paces, please tell me. I will change it at once.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN FRANCIES,
17 Himaras Street,
Politeia, 145 62 Athens.
January 22.

From Miss Gabrielle Higgins

Sir, Philip Howard is mistaken on the subject of croquet. It is in fact played in the US, Australia, South Africa, Egypt, Spain and France, to name only a selection of countries.

What marks croquet out among games invented in Britain is that the British have remained the best in the world.

Yours faithfully,
GABRIELLE HIGGINS
(Secretary,
Oxford University Croquet Club),
Merton College, Oxford OX1 4JD.
gabrielle.higgins@merton.oxford.ac.uk
January 23.

Pinochet proceedings

From Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC

Sir, Rarely can there have been a case attracting more widespread public interest than the proceedings before the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords in the Pinochet affair (reports, January 19 to 22).

The Appellate Committee is a committee of that House; the televising of its proceedings is, therefore, not proscribed by the Criminal Justice Act 1925.

We saw their Lordships voting in the Chamber after the conclusion of the earlier Pinochet proceedings in November; but would not the current proceedings have been an occasion on which to experiment with the televising of actual judicial proceedings in this country?

Another opportunity is bound to arise.

Yours faithfully,
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,
138 Offord Road, N1 1PF.
January 22.

Demand for new farm outlets

From Ms Nina Planck

Sir, Noting agriculture's declining importance to the economy, the Agriculture Select Committee suggests that farmers find something else to do (report, January 20). Collapsing farm prices are bad enough; now farmers must expect less cash support from the EU.

It is true that subsidies — which have led to overproduction and thus to lower prices and rural job losses — are part of the problem. But farmers don't need a new line of work. They need new markets. As the recent success of farmers' markets in more than 15 English towns demonstrates — notably in Bath and Bristol — new customers are both numerous and near.

The definition of a farmers' market is crucial: the seller must grow everything himself. Such markets have greatly benefited small and medium-sized farms in the US: the farmer reaps retail prices (often three times higher than wholesale), the shopper buys fresh, local foods, and the countryside stays economically productive, without recourse to tourism and theme parks.

Rural incomes and employment rise — all without government help.

Yours sincerely,
NINA PLANCK,
Islington Farmers' Market,
6 St Paul Street,
London N1 7AB.
January 20.

From the Editor of Farmers Weekly

Sir, I take exception to your leading article of January 20, "Farming fashions", in which you attack *Farmers Weekly* for "belatedly" announcing that "organic systems have come of age".

If your suggestion that the few hundred people who shop at Spitalfields market reflect a long-standing demand were true, consumers would not need to trek to Spitalfields: a full range of organic food would be available in their local high street store.

The fact that this is not so reflects most consumers' indifference to organic production. Although it may sell well in Hampstead and Islington, how many people in Hull or Ipswich care about organic food? All the evidence suggests not many.

Farmers Weekly jealously guards its reputation as a fiercely independent magazine, serving the whole farming industry. We are not, as you allege, "in large part financed by the advertising of agrochemical industries".

Less than a third of our revenue is derived from display advertising, and agrochemical companies account for a small proportion of that revenue.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN D. HOWE,
Editor, *Farmers Weekly*,
Quadrant House, The Quadrant,
Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS.
January 21.

Owners' rights

From Mr Sam Gratton

Sir, The legal advice offered me by Mr Neil Howlett (letter, January 20), regarding the discovery that a shabby "antiques shop" below a flat I had intended to purchase was in fact a brothel, was as informative as it was irrelevant.

Far from being a drawback, the proximity of the brothel was a welcome bonus. It was, as your article in Weekend (January 9) made clear, the prospect of it being converted to a kebab shop that worried me.

Yours etc
SAM GRATTON,
51 Drayton Gardens,
South Kensington, SW10 9RX.
sam.gratton@hotmail.com
January 21.

Ancient titles

From the Countess of Mar

Sir, In reply to his own question, "Who can lay claim to the oldest title in the Lords?", Alan Hamilton (report, January 21) puts forward Lord de Ros, whose title dates from 1264, and Lord Mowbray, Segrave and Stourton (1283).

May I respectfully point out that, although Scottish peers were not admitted to the House of Lords until after the Act of Union of 1707, the Earldom of Mar was created in 1114, predating the baronies of Mowbray and Segrave by 169 years?

As the thirty-first holder of the title, I am also an active member of the House of Lords.

Yours faithfully,
MAR,
House of Lords.
January 21.

Furry friendships

From Mr John Hanner

Sir, I cannot agree that, as the subheading on Matthew Parris's article, "Furry friendships" (January 23), put it, "a fanatical devotion to animals is a disturbing sign of a damaged personality". It may be the reverse.

Impassivity towards animals and creatures generally would likely extend itself to the human species.

Affection and fondness is a desirable trait and is of considerable benefit to creatures, humans and the donor.

(The article is also at variance with the author's previous item, "In love with llamas", of November 21, 1997.)

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HANNER,
Little Cefn Coed,
Kingcoed, Raglan,
Monmouth NP5 1DS.
jhmoncadw@aol.com
January 24.

Christians in India

From Mr Randhir Singh Bains

Sir, Your leader today, "Christians in peril", rightly expresses concern over the plight of Christians in India. However, I query your conclusion that "Christians are vulnerable precisely because they are so few" (2.6 per cent); Sikhs constitute an even smaller minority (2 per cent), yet have so far escaped the Hindu fundamentalists' religious wrath.

Christians are being picked on because, according to the fundamentalists, they are the agents of Western imperialism. Even the Prime Minister could not help doubting their loyalty to India when he wrote in *The Organiser*, the BJP journal (May 7, 1995), that "the other task is to assimilate the non-Hindus, like Muslims and Christians, in the mainstream. They must have a feeling of patriotism for this country."

It is statements like these which are largely responsible for instigating violence and intimidation against the Christian and Muslim minorities in India.

Yours faithfully,
RANDHIR SINGH BAINS,
34 Shere Road,
Gants Hill, Essex IG2 6TG.
January 26.

From Mr John Young

Sir, "History associates religious persecutions with weak leaders", according to your leading article.

Henry VIII? Elizabeth I? Cromwell? Stalin? Hitler?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN YOUNG,
37 Dewhurst Road, W14 0ES.
johnyo@easynet.co.uk
January 26.

A day to remember

From Mr R. K. Ellis

Sir, Is it spin, or merely a slip, that the entry of the UK into the Common Market in 1972 should be listed under Deaths in your Anniversaries column today?

Sincerely yours,
R. K. ELLIS,
2 St Elmos Road, SE16 1SA.
January 22.

All at sea

From Miss Alison Clayton

Sir, Your report (January 25) on the professionalism of women serving in the Royal Navy off Sierra Leone starts, "Drying panties have replaced pin-ups in *HMS Norfolk*'s cabins". This undermines not only the advances women have made in the Navy since 1991 but the credibility of the report.

I am at a loss to understand what relevance there is, if any, between women's laundry and the work undertaken by both men and women serving within a difficult operational environment.

Yours faithfully,
ALISON CLAYTON,
163 Brighton Road,
Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 2YH.
alison.clayton@janes.co.uk
January 25.

Online MPs

From Mr Nicolas Owen

Sir, The problem with e-mail in general and publicising e-mail addresses of Members of Parliament in particular (letter, January 27) is that anyone with five minutes spare and nothing to do can create needless work and expense for others by sending trivial messages that require acknowledgement.

This being a classic case in point.

Yours faithfully,
NICOLAS OWEN,
1 Bruce Grove,
Orpington, Kent BR6 0HF.
n.owen@mcmail.com
January 27.

Ungrateful taxman

From Dr Vivien Noakes

Sir, As the January 31 deadline for the submission of tax returns approaches, what a morale lift it would be if, instead of threats of fines for late delivery, the Inland Revenue were to write to each one of us at the end of the year to say thank you for the hard work and often long hours which have made possible our donation to the national coffers.

Yours faithfully,
VIVIEN NOAKES,
146 Hamilton Terrace, NW8 9UX.
January 25.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM HOUSE
January 28: By command of The Queen, Vice Admiral Sir James Weatherall (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency Professor Mohamed Ben Ahmed, at 29 Prince's Gate, London SW7, this morning in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the Republic of Tunisia.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 28: The Prince of Wales, Patron, Wateraid, this evening attended a dinner for supporters.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 28: The Princess Royal, Patron, Victim Support Scotland, this morning attended the launch of the Victim Support City of Glasgow Service at the Victim Support Offices, 10 Jocelyn Square, Glasgow, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow (Mr Pat Lally, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited the University of Glasgow Media Group at the Mass Media Unit, 61 Southpark Avenue, Glasgow.

The Princess Royal subsequently visited the University of Strathclyde to officially open the Institute of Biomedical Sciences at 27 Taylor Street, Glasgow.

Her Royal Highness, President, Save the Children Fund, later received a donation from the Strathclyde Police whilst visiting their Headquarters at 173 Pitt Street, Glasgow.

The Princess Royal this evening attended a Dinner given by the Glasgow City Council at the Banqueting Hall, City Chambers, George Square, Glasgow, to receive The Loving Cup award for her significant contribution to Glasgow and her encouragement to organisations supporting disadvantaged individuals.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will visit Elstree Film Studios at Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, and open its new sound stages at 11.05; as patron, British Film Institute, will visit its National Film and Television Archive Conservation Centre at Berkhamsted and present Sir Paul Getty with a BFI Fellowship, at 12.30; and will open the recently restored Spirella Building in Letchworth Garden City which, as part of a regeneration initiative, now houses new businesses, at 3.05.

The Duke of York will open a new swimming pool complex at the Marist School at Sunninghill, Berkshire, at 2.00.

Breakfast

Asian Business Network Breakfast
The Chancellor of the Exchequer was the guest of honour at a business breakfast given by the Asian Business Network at the Regency Hotel, Queens Gate, London, on Wednesday. Mr Keith Vaz, MP, presided. Sir Peter Bonfield, Chief Executive of British Telecommunications, gave an address. Among those present were:
The High Commissioner for India, the Turkish Ambassador, the Ambassador of Oman, the High Commissioner for Bangladesh, Mr Harish Patel, Mr Ian Henderson, Mr Jasminder Singh, Sir Andrew Turnbull, Mr O P Gulati, Mr John Caine, Sir Anwar Pervez, Mr Tim Holley, Mr Raj Loomba, Mr David John, Mr Stephen Herring, Mr Bruce Davidson, Professor Mike Brown, Mr Clive Jones, Mr Vinu Bhanesa, Mr Sandy Walkington, Mr Hugh Merrill and Mr Shami Ahmed.

Birthdays today

Dr R.C. Alston, bibliographer, 66; Mr Malcolm Binns, concert pianist, 63; Mr Leslie Bricusse, composer and lyricist, 68; Mr Peter Byrne, actor, 71; Lord Clyde, 67; Dr Alec Coppen, psychiatrist, 76; Miss Susan Douglas, former Editor, *Sunday Express*, 42; the Right Rev Charles Fitzgerald-Lombard, former Abbot of Downside, 58; Mr John Gallagher, rugby league player, 35; Dr Germaine Greer, author, 60; Lord Gregson, 75; Professor F.R. Hartley, Vice-Chancellor, Cranfield University, 57; Mr Paul Hodder-Williams, publisher, 89; Earl Howe, 48.

Mr John Junkin, actor and writer, 69; Mr Sean Kerly, hockey player, 39; Mrs Margaret Laird, Third Church Estates Commissioner, 66; Lord Lane of Horsell, 74; Mr Michael Mavor, Head Master, Rugby School, 52; Sir Richard Needham, former MP, 57; Mr James Nicholson, MEP, 54; Mr Andy Roberts, former cricketer, 48; Mr Tom Selleck, actor, 54; Mr Raman Subba Row, former chairman, Test and County Cricket Board, 67; Mr Brian Trubshaw, former test pilot, 75.

Loriners' Company

The Loriners' Company announce the appointment of Mr Graham B. Forbes, FRICS, CC, as Clerk to the Company following the retirement of Mr John R. Williams, FCA.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Emmanuel Swedenborg, philosopher, Stockholm, 1688; Daniel Bernoulli, mathematician, Groningen, 1700; Thomas Paine, radical and writer, Thetford, Norfolk, 1737; Henry Neele, poet, London, 1798; Sir James Outram, general, Bulterley Hall, Derbyshire, 1803; William McKinley, 25th American President 1897-1901, Niles, Ohio, 1843; Sir Ebenezer Howard, pioneer of garden cities, London, 1850; Anton Chekhov, playwright, Taganrov, Russia, 1860; Frederick Delius, composer, Bradford, 1862; Romain Rolland, novelist, Nobel laureate 1915, Clamecy, France, 1866; Vicente Blasco Ibáñez, writer and politician, Valencia, 1867; Havergal Brian, composer, Dresden, Staffordshire, 1876; W.C. Fields, actor and comedian, Philadelphia, 1880.

DEATHS: Robert Sanderson, Bishop of Lincoln 1660-63, Buckden, Huntingdon, 1663; King George III, reigned 1760-1820, Windsor, 1820; Edward Lear, poet and artist, San Remo, Italy, 1888; Alfred Sisley, painter, Monet-sur-Loing, 1899; Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig, field marshal, London, 1928; James Bridie (Osborne Henry Mavor), dramatist, Edinburgh, 1951; Henry Louis Mencken, writer, Baltimore, Maryland, 1956; Fritz Kreisler, violinist, New York, 1962; Robert Frost, poet, Boston, Massachusetts, 1963; Jimmy Durante, actor and comedian, California, 1980.

King George IV acceded to the throne, 1820.

The Victoria Cross was instituted, 1856.

Desert Island Discs was first broadcast by the BBC, 1942.



Anna Tribe, great-great-great-granddaughter of Nelson and Lady Hamilton, comes face-to-face with a striking new model of the great man, the centrepiece of *Nelson: The Hero and The Man*, an exhibition which opened yesterday at the Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth. The model, based on a face mask made in Vienna when he was still alive and on research by museum staff, is thought to be the most lifelike ever made of the admiral

Luncheons

Glovers' Company
Alderman Sir Paul Newall, the Lord Mayor *locum tenens*, accompanied by Mr Sheriff and Mrs Brian Harris, was presented with a suite of gloves by Mr Malcolm Penney, Master of the Glovers' Company, at a luncheon held yesterday at Carpenters' Hall.

During the luncheon the Lord Mayor *locum tenens* presented the prizes to the winners of the British Glove Association's annual design *competition and also the shield* awarded annually to the holder of the Glovers' Bursary at Cordwainers' College.

The Masters and Clerks of the Leathersellers', Girdlers', Saddlers', Cordwainers', Curriers' and the Coachmakers' and Coach Harness Makers' Companies were among the guests.

National Sporting Club
Mr Tony Banks, Minister for Sport, was the guest of honour at a luncheon of the National Sporting Club held yesterday at the Café Royal. Mr David Willis, club chairman, presided.

London Mayors' Association
The London Mayors' Association entertained Mr Slavko Linik, Mayor of Rijik, Croatia, at a luncheon yesterday at the Oceana Restaurant, Wigmore Street, London, W1. Councillor Robert Davis, executive chairman, presided. Among others *present were:*
The Mayor and Mayoress of Lewisham, Mr Louis Segal, Mrs Margaret Calcott-James, Councillor Ronnie Raymond-Cox, Councillor Ronnie Barden and Councillor Doreen Wheatherhead.

Latest wills

Dinah Millicent **Brocklehurst** of Knutsford, Cheshire, left estate valued at £2,378,987 net.

Charles **Castledine**, of Coventry, West Midlands, left estate valued at £1,142,183 net.

Dennis Hilton **Cooper** of Hall Green, Birmingham, left estate valued at £1,050,281 net.

Cecile **Jones** of Newbury, Berkshire, left estate valued at £1,139,100 net.

Arnold **Roose**, former bank official, of Pinner, Middlesex, left estate valued at £1,134,744 net.

Kenneth Albert **Rose** of Cheam, Sutton, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,772,734 net.

Kenneth Marcus **Thornton** of Windsor Forest, left estate valued at £1,823,493 net.

John Rutherford **Tree**, former medical practitioner, of Bedford, left estate valued at £1,484,127 net.

Institute of Legal Executives

The Institute of Legal Executives Membership Examination Pass List, Autumn 1998:

Abbott RC, Abel LS, Acklndose GR, [illegible] S, Brown D, Bryan SJ, Bryant TM, Buckley LJ, Bucknall ML, Bull BA, Bunce GJ, Bunney AJ, Burgess JA, Bushell AM, Butcher DM, Butler J, Butler SP, Buxton SA, Buzzeo KM.

Cable RH, Cameron AD, Cameron DA, Campbell JO, Campbell PA, Canavan CB, Canham CD, Carey J, Carr SD, Carter SP, Carters AM, Cartwright DA, Cattermole RG, Catton TB, Cecchini CW, Chalmers EC, Chamberlain F, Champion BT, Chapman K, Chapman MJ, Charge AM, Cheese J, Cheetham S, Chester LA, Choudhury J, Clancy FP, Clark PM, Clark S, Clarke GM, Clarke RJ, Clayton PS, Cluley JE, Coates RL, Cockayne AJ, Colban A, Cole MM, Cole SV, Colley TI, Collinge TC, Collins BJ, Collinson-Smee TP, Colwell DMC, Cornish SD, Concannon NP, Conn AJ, Connolly FM, Cook E, Cook PM, Coombs GM, Cooper J, Cope JE, Copeland HM, Coppin JC, Copus GA, Coochman GM, Courtney K, Cousins JJ, Coverley TS, Cox JL, Craig P, Craigie AL, Cran-Chalmers EV, Crawshaw A, Crawshaw EJ, Cressey M, Crosby JE, Crosby SJ, Crossman LC, Cumberledge K.

Dakin L, Daniels JT, Daniels KM, Danvers JE, Darnborough-Firth SJ, David GD, Davidson S, Davies SJ, Davis C, Davis JM, Davis VM, Dawkins S, Deacon JN, Deary G, Delahoy MI, Dempsey SJ, Denton DS, Devenish CJ, Dicken SR, Diedrick TS, Dixon A, Docking KR, Donnelly DJ, Dooling AM, Dowd KM, Duffy KG, Dunham LT, Dunn A, Dunsdon TC, Durnin EM.

Earnshaw SE, Eatenton LA, Eccleston RL, Eddison J, Edge RJ, Edmondson J, Egan MJL, Elliott GM, Ellis DL, Ellis MT, Elwood DP, England RJ, Enoke MN, Evans EC, Evans J, Evans LR.

Fagan CM, Farley CZ, Fairman SC, Fannon EJ, Farr ED, Farrall JE, Farrell EA, Farthing SD, Ferguson F, Ferrigno JJ, Fisher EJ, Fisher LJ, Fitzgerald MSD, Fleming SA, Fletcher MA, Flynn SE, Foley PB, Ford CN, Forrester SA, Francis M, Frankenberger VJ, Freeman C, Frost CE, Furmedge AL.

Gabell JM, Gaiger CR, Galliford TR, Gamble CE, Ganderton LGW, Gardiner S, Garlick CM, Gaskill PS, George CM, George LD, Georgestone OF, Gething AD, Gibson S, Gilles AA, Girling KM, Glanville CV, Glaze HA, Glossop K, Goddard NSJ, Goddard TE, Goldberg D, Gokla P, Gooch [illegible]

[illegible] Ingram AJ, [illegible] Irving JA, Jackman N, Jacks SU, Jackson C, Jackson JP, Jackson L, Jackson PB, James MT, Jaques PA, Jarratt JR, Jay PE, Jenkin S, Jenkins W, Jennings P, Jessop ML, Jinks BA, Johnson CL, Johnson RP, Johnson SS, Johnston T, Jones B, Jones CL, Jones H, Jones JM, Jones JT, Jones LA, Jones LL, Jones SL, Jones SM, Josiah YA, Junor L.

Kalali A, Kam YLS, Kane JA, Karn RV, Kataria KA, Kavanagh L, Kaye AJ, Kearsley NJ, Keene BT, Kelly B, Kelly FK, Kelly R, Kelly SE, Kemp CS, Kett HC, Khatoon V, King NJ, Kinlough JA, Kirk RA, Kirkpatrick SL, Kitchingham MRJ, Knee T, Knight HM, Knott EJ, Kounnou ERL, Kumari K.

Laffin CP, Lane SJ, Langton L, Laszewski HC, Lasewski Hill L, Lau MP, Law JL, Law M, Lawton J, Le Prevost LA, Lean PF, Lennox TP, Leonard K, Leppard NE, Lewis HM, Lewis JP, Lewis LJ, Ling SR, Lister PM, Liversidge PA, Lloyd-king RJ, Lo KCD, Lobb HS, Lobley AM, Lockyer LJ, Loft J, Lomax JM, Lovatt JP, Lovesey SL, Lowe KP, Lowe SL, Lowry DS, Lung SW, Lyon V, Lyons D.

Mahly G, Macdonald J, Macdonald K, Macdonald L, Maddison J, Madej EA, Maile JM, Maltby HC, Manamon CL, Mannies MD, Manning LP, Mansbridge M, Mansel JM, Mansell RJ, Mansford BA, March L, Marsh L, Marshall E, Marshall JA, Martin J, Mason SJ, Matthews C, Matthews NS, Matthews VJ, Maude E, Mawson LJ, Mayes SJ, McAnespie S, McCann SK, McCarthy KM, McDonnell [illegible] J, Murray JM, Myring SA, Nally SJ, Nathan JJ, Neeve CJ, Nelsh LPA, Nelson G, Netherton PA, New EJ, Newis SR, Newton M, Nicholls CM, Nicholls WM, Nicklin LE, Nicol GK, Nicolaou H, Niewiadowski MD, Nowell LJ, Nutt S.

[illegible] Sanderson JK, Sands PJ, Sarai NK, Sargent JE, Sarr SO, Sarson ZM, Sassoon E, Saunders J, Saunders RC, Saunders T, Savory TL, Saxton MA, Scott AJ, Scott D, Scully G, Seaman V, Seed K, Selander K, Sembhi RK, Shaw D, Shaw JM, Sheader HL, Sheldrake N, Shepherd NP, Shirra FG, Shum Twa, Siebert RC, Simons SA, Simpson HF, Skelton JC, Slade K, Sleeman JM, Slinger V, Smeaton SA, Smith BE, Smith DL, Smith E, Smith EA, Smith GA, Smith J, Smith LJ, Smith PM, Smith RG, Smith SE, Smithen O, Snadden GA, Snelson C, Snow ML, Sorby M, Spillman SY, St Clair TAM, St John F, Stacey B, Stanton CJ, Statham JAM, Stephenson CA, Stewart LG, Still WH, Style SGC, Stynes A, Sockling J, Sumner NH, Sutcliffe NC, Sutherland B, Sutherland G, Sutherland SJ, Sutherland-Smith K, Sutton HJ, Swift M, Syddall J, Synn CL.

Tallon PM, Tasker Y, Tate H, Taylor JM, Taylor SM, Thayer RK, Thelwell H, Theobald L, Thomas AM, Thomas BO, Thomas DC, Thomas JA, Thomas JD, Thompson AEL, Thomson S, Thorogood F, Tierney AJ, Tinsley J, Toms ST, Topping SF, Trelour V, Trewitt HE, Trill JL, Trowbridge M, Turnbull KA.

Valler J A, Vallone LA, Vandome SJ, Varga AL, Varley SC, Vaughan CH, Venables JA, Verow DP, Verrecchia ZE, Viechweg H. Wadsworth AHR, Wadsworth S, Waite HJ, Walford H, Walker D, Waller M, Waller S, Walsingham SJ, Ward LR, Waring YR, Warner MA, Warren JL, Warwick HI, [illegible]

Dinners

Security Forum
The Secretary of State for Defence was the guest speaker at a dinner of the Defence and Security Forum held last night at the Carlton Club. Lady Olga Maitland, president, was in the chair, and Colonel Philip Howes, chairman, also spoke.

Glaziers' Company
Mr G.D. Cracknell, Master of the Glaziers' Company, with Mr P. R. Batchelor, Upper Warden, and their ladies, received members of the court and their guests at the St Paul's Day quarter court dinner held last night at Glaziers' Hall. The Master presided and presented Mrs Cracknell and Mrs Batchelor with their brooches. Mr Lawrence Turner also spoke.

Loriners' Company
Mr. Edward I. Walker-Arnott, Master of the Loriners' Company, presided at the installation dinner held last night at Vintners' Hall. Sir Alastair Morton, Mr Jonathan R. A. Allison, Upper Warden, Mr Robin H. Walker-Arnott, Under Warden, and Mr Stanislaw Klocek also spoke. The Masters of the Cordwainers', Painter-Stainers', Coachmakers' and Coach Harness Makers' Companies were among the guests.

United & Cecil Club
Sir Marcus Fox, Chairman of the United & Cecil Club, presided at a dinner held last night at the House of Commons. The Hon Alan Clark, MP, was the principal guest and speaker. Mr Geoffrey Redman-Brown also spoke.

European-Atlantic Group
Professor Otmar Issing, Board Member of the European Central Bank in Frankfurt, was the guest speaker at a meeting of the European-Atlantic Group held last night at the House of Commons by courtesy of Mr Geoffrey Brown, MP. Later, Lord Dahrendorf, FBA, president of the group, was in the chair at a dinner-discussion held at the St Ermin's Hotel, SW1. Admiral of the Fleet Sir Julian Oswald and Sir Michael Palliser also spoke. *The German Ambassador* and the High Commissioner for Singapore were among those present.

Institution of Mechanical Engineers

An Ordinary Meeting of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers was held at 1 Birdcage Walk, London, at which the 71st Thomas Lowe Gray Lecture entitled "Port Ramsgate Walkway Collapse Disaster" was presented by Professor Sir Bernard Crossland, FRS, Dr Stephen Joel, Mr Graham Norton and Mr John Underwood. During the meeting the President, Professor John Spence, presented the £13,000 James Clayton Prize to Mr Ron Ayres, who led the Thrust SSC Engineering Team, who hold the World Land Speed Record, the Thomas Hawksley Gold Medal to Professor Anthony Kinloch and the Safety Award in Mechanical Engineering to Dr Hesham Azzam. Afterwards, Professor Spence was the host at a dinner for the guests who included Professor Sir Hugh Ford and other Past-Presidents and Members of Council of the Institution.

Reception

British Safety Council
Sir Neville Purvis, Director General of the British Safety Council, was the host at a reception held yesterday at Armourers' Hall for the council's Diploma in Safety Management, Diploma in Environmental Management and Five Star Health and Safety Management System Audit awards.

Merseyside Lieutenancy

The following have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants of Merseyside:
The Earl of Derby, Mrs Judith Louise Greensmith, Mr Roy Alfred Morris and Professor John Nelson Tarn.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.N.W. Arnot and Miss R. de Rosayro
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Arnot, of Blackford, Yeovil, Somerset, and Renata, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ramon de Rosayro, of Ottawa, Canada.

Mr G.E. Bonas and Miss H. Van Zyl
The engagement is announced between George, eldest son of Mr Jeffrey Bonas, of London, and Mrs Elspeth Bonas, of Gloucestershire, and Heidili, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Johannes van Zyl, of Robertson, South Africa.

Mr A. Choudhury and Miss R.L. Johnson
The engagement is announced between Ashish, son of Mr and Mrs Anupam Choudhury, of London, and Rachel Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Raymond Johnson, of Newport, South Wales.

Mr D.A. Clare and Miss H.M. Farrell
The engagement is announced between David Anthony, son of Mr and Mrs R.D. Clare, of Elston, Newark, and Helen Mary, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs T.D. Farrell, of Walsall, West Midlands.

Mr T.R. Rendle and Miss J.A. Cantwell
The engagement is announced between Timothy Russel, younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Rendle, of Widdington, Saffron Walden, Essex, and Janet Ann, second daughter of the late Mr John Cantwell and of Mrs Yvonne Weldon, of Balsover, North Derbyshire.

Mr J.B. Sampson and Miss H.J. Corbett
The engagement is announced between Barney, son of the late George Sampson and of Penny Sampson, of Chelworth, Wiltshire, and Hannah, daughter of Robert and Sarah Corbett, of Kinnersley, Herefordshire.

Mr C. Webber and Miss J.A. Slocock
The engagement is announced between Caleb, son of Mr Paul Webber, of Didcot, and Mrs Pamela Webber, of Oxford, and Josephine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Noel Slocock, of Wanford Mill, Bucks Green, West Sussex.

Church news

The Rev Robert Bailey, Chaplain, HM Forces (RAF): to be Team Vicar, Cartmel Peninsula Team Ministry with special responsibility for Cartmel Priory (Carlisle).

The Rev Kathleen Batte, NSM, Wilford Hill (Southwell): to be NSM Priest-in-Charge, Cinderhill Christ Church (same diocese).

Canon John Bearpark, Vicar, Bentham St Margaret and Rural Dean of Ewecross (Bradford): to be also Priest-in-Charge, Bentham St John the Baptist (same diocese).

The Rev Richard Bending, Vicar, Buckden, and Priest-in-Charge, Hail Weston (Ely): to be Priest-in-Charge, Terrington St John, Tilney All Saints, Tilney St Lawrence, Wiggenhall St Germans and Islington, and Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalene (same diocese).

The Rev Sue Booys, Assistant Curate, Kidlington w. Hampton Poyle (Oxford): to be Team Vicar, Dorchester Team Ministry (same diocese).

The Rev David Broad, Team Vicar, Totton Team Ministry (Winchester): to be Rector, Abbotts Ann and Upper Clatford and Goodworth Clatford (same diocese).

The Rev Christopher Frith, Rector, Brampton St Thomas (Derby): to be also Honorary Canon of the Cathedral Church of All Saints (same diocese).

Canon Carl Garner, Diocesan Missioner (St Albans): has been appointed Priest-in-Charge, Digswell Team Ministry, and Honorary Canon of St Albans Cathedral (same diocese).

OBITUARIES

MAJOR-GENERAL MICHAEL HALFORD

Major-General Michael Halford, DSO, OBE, GOC 43rd (Wessex) Division, 1964-67, died on January 4 aged 84. He was born on October 28, 1914.

MICHAEL HALFORD came from a family closely associated with the York and Lancaster Regiment. His grandfather fought with the Vth Dragoon Guards at the Charge of the Heavy Brigade in the Crimea. His father served in the Relief of Ladysmith and was wounded at Spion Kop, while serving under his future father-in-law, Lieutenant-Colonel (later Brigadier-General) W. T. Kirkpatrick. Halford went on to command the 2nd Battalion York and Lancasters on the Ypres Salient, 1915-16, and the 1st Battalion after the war. Previously, in 1897, Kirkpatrick had been with the 2nd Battalion in the troopship *Warren Hastings*, which ran on to rocks at night and sank off Réunion on passage to Bombay. He is said to have been instrumental in ensuring that no lives were lost.

In Halford's own thirty years' service in the Army, he probably saw more action than any of his ancestors: prewar, the Arab revolt in Palestine and internal security in Egypt; then, during the war, Dunkirk, the Tunisian and Italy campaigns and the latter phases of the war in North-West Europe; and postwar, the early occupation of Germany, anti-British rioting in the Sudan, intelligence work in Hong Kong, withdrawal from the Canal Zone in Egypt, and the Suez landings.

Educated at Wellington College, Michael Charles Kirkpatrick Halford did not follow the usual route into the Army via Sandhurst. Instead, in 1932 he went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took a degree in maths and modern languages. While at Cambridge, he was granted a TA commission in the Guernsey Militia. In 1935 this was replaced by a regular commission with a year's antedate, when he followed his father into the York and Lancaster Regiment (Y&L).

The Regimental Colonel has described him as: "Not an easy man to know, but very well liked, particularly by his contemporaries. Ladies loved him probably because he was handsome to start with and could be quite a 'smooth'. He gave the impression of being a gentle soul and very much the gentleman. As a military commander I never heard anyone criticise him. He was well regarded by all ranks and considered to be one of the Regiment's high flyers."

Gentle soul or not, he was an outstanding commander of the 6th Y&L, which he joined as adjutant in 1939 when they were raised as the 6th Hallamshire (TA) Battalion of the Y&L — Hallamshire being the old name for the Sheffield area. After Dunkirk, where the battalion formed part of the rearguard, he was mentioned in dispatches. A year later he was sent to the Staff College, Camberley, and after a number of minor staff jobs, set off for Tunisia as Brigade Major of 138th Brigade in 46th Division, which included 6th Y&L. He saw action in the defence of Medjez-el-Bab and the recapture of Sedjenane, permanently losing the hearing in one ear after driving over a mine.

After Tunisia, he returned to 6th Y&L and landed with them at Salerno. He took part in the crossing of the Volturno, the capture of Monte Camino, the attack on Monte Cedro and the crossing of the Garigliano before being sent to the US Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1944, when the battle-experienced North African divisions were withdrawn to England to prepare for Overlord. He had been mentioned in dispatches for a second time and was later appointed MBE.



Returning from the States, he rejoined his battalion for the storming of Le Havre, after which he took over as second-in-command, seeing further actions in Belgium and Holland during the battles for the Rhineland, including the second Battle of Arnhem. He assumed command of the battalion in March 1945, taking it on through the rest of the campaign, finally liberating Utrecht on May 7, 1945. He was awarded the DSO for his part in the capture of Arnhem.

After the war, he had to revert to major and mark time like so many other successful battalion commanders. By 1952 he was back with the 1st Battalion in Germany as second-in-command just before it left for the Sudan to garrison Khartoum. He at last regained his rank of lieutenant-colonel in 1953 when appointed GSO1 (Intelligence) in Hong Kong. A year later he was given substantive command of the 1st Battalion, which was by then in the Canal Zone making ready for the British evacuation of Egypt. The battalion had barely settled into Dover Castle after the evacuation when they re-embarked for the Suez landings in 1956. They reached El Cap, one third of the way down the Canal to Suez, when Eden ordered the ceasefire.

Advanced to OBE after Suez, he went as an instructor to the Imperial Defence College in 1957 before being appointed Brigade Colonel of the Yorkshire Brigade two years later, and subsequently Brigade Commander of 147th Infantry Brigade (TA), based around Birmingham. By 1963 he was Chief of Staff Western Command and was seconded for three months to report on the defences of the dissident Radfan tribal area in the Aden Protectorate and to visit Oman.

His last job in the Army was to command 43rd (Wessex) Division (TA) around Taunton. He was offered a further appointment as Chief of Staff, Far East Command, but chose to retire in 1967. He had been appointed Representative Colonel of the Y&L in 1966 and had the distressing task in 1968 of overseeing the disbandment of the regiment, which had been formed in 1758, and which his family had served for three generations.

In retirement, he became a deputy lieutenant of Hampshire and regional secretary of the British Field Sports Society. He also continued his links with the TA and the Royal British Legion.

He married Pamela Joy Wright in 1945. They had three sons. She and two sons survive him.

AUGUST EVERDING

August Everding, German opera director and administrator, died from cancer in Munich on January 26 aged 70. He was born in Bottrop, Westphalia, on October 31, 1928.

Within the first month of the year Europe has lost two of its most distinguished opera administrators. Rolf Liebermann died at the beginning of January and now he has been followed by August Everding, the man who succeeded him as director of the Hamburg State Opera in 1973.

Everding spent only four years in Hamburg, but that was long enough to show the city that his skills as a stage director were as assured as his ability to run an opera house which, under Liebermann, had acquired international status. Everding's lifelong passion for Wagner and Richard Strauss was quickly made plain. So was his readiness to take on contemporary opera, although he had already demonstrated this when in 1968 he had staged Humphrey Searle's *Hamlet* there.



Everding: a lifelong passion for Wagner and Strauss

In 1976 he was lured away by Munich to take charge of the Bavarian State Opera. Everding was born in Westphalia but Munich probably had the percipience to know that he was a Bavarian at heart. And it was in Munich that he became artistic king and made his home. It is the city with which he will always be associated.

Within a few years Everding's success at the State Opera led to his being given control of all Munich's subsidised theatres, of which the Opera was just one, albeit the most important. When even Bavaria had to tighten its financial belt it fell to Everding to do the job of cost-cutting.

As so often the Opera was the first to suffer, much to the fury of Wolfgang Sawallisch, the music director who had been established there since 1971. Arguments between the two men often made the headlines in the German press. It was noticeable that Sawallisch in his tribute to Everding earlier this week concentrated on the work he had done in founding the Bavarian Theatre Academy and restoring the famous Prinzregententheater, which had long been closed. Both men had more than a touch of the autocrat. Everding remained revered in his adopted city.

August Everding was the son of an organist and was thoroughly well-schooled in music. He learnt to play the piano, organ and flute and then went to the universities of Bonn and Munich to study theology. He was a deeply committed Roman Catholic, a fact which was sometimes concealed from those who saw him only as a brilliant administrator and rarely reluctant *bon vivant*.

After leaving university he moved into the straight theatre, with the Munich Kammerspiele. There he directed many plays, with the emphasis on contemporary drama, and there Peter Stein was among those who benefited from his encouragement.

Everding's success at the Kammerspiele led to an invitation in 1965 to direct his first opera, *La traviata*, at the Staatsoper itself, which he was eventually to run. The house turned out some of its most distinguished regulars for the occasion: Teresa Stratas, Fritz Wunderlich, Hermann Prey.

However, the production which set Everding truly on the operatic path came in 1967 with *Tristan* in Vienna. Birgit Nilsson was the Isolde and Karl Böhm conducted. This led quickly to invitations from Bayreuth, for *The Flying Dutchman* in 1969, followed by *Tristan*. That latter opera became an Everding speciality and with it he made his debut at the New York Met in 1971 at Rudolf Bing's instigation. It marked the start of a solid association with the house.

Covent Garden saw only two examples of his work. The first was Strauss's *Salome* in 1970, a glittery, bejewelled staging, reworked from Hamburg, with Grace Bumbry in the title role, Norman Bailey as Jokanaan and Solti coducting. He returned in 1979 with a more fanciful *Magic Flute*, with Ileana Cotrubas as an enchanting Pamina and Colin Davis in the pit. It remained in the Garden repertoire until 1991. The *Flute* was one of the pieces to which Everding returned several times. His version for the Savonlinna Festival in Finland came back year after year.

Everding had a reputation for being something of a traditionalist as a director, sticking closely to the demands of the composer and librettist. But he was capable of springing a surprise or two, as he did in a *Don Giovanni* for Paris in the early Seventies.

He was always ready to embrace the new and step outside the regular repertory. He championed Carl Orff, staging *De temporum fine comoedia* at the Salzburg Festival and, most recently in Augsburg, a revival of *Die Bernauerin*, a highly Bavarian piece almost certainly close to his Bavarian heart. The 1991 Munich Festival opened with Penderecki's *Ubu Rex*, directed by Everding. While still running the whole of the Munich musical scene, he found time to stage a complete *Ring* cycle in Warsaw in the late 1980s.

He received many honours and awards in Germany and his natural air of authority ensured that he was president of a number of opera and theatre associations within and without his native land.

August Everding is survived by his wife, Gustava, a doctor, and by four sons.

ORLANDUS WILSON

Orlandus "Dad" Wilson, gospel singer, died in Paris on December 31 aged 81. He was born in Chesapeake, Virginia, on August 27, 1917.

CONQUERING America with their swing-influenced harmonies and later introducing European audiences to their music, the Golden Gate Quartet became one of the best-known and most widely copied gospel groups in the world. A key member of the group was the bass singer Orlandus Wilson, who was the anchor for Willie Johnson, Henry Owens and Bill Landford as they developed their innovative "jubilee" style of singing — an invigorating blend of syncopated rhythms borrowed from the Holiness churches of Virginia, superb harmonies and vocal percussive and instrumental sounds.

Their repertoire, although gospel-based, included traditional and topical songs. Their Second World War flag-waver *Stalin wasn't Stallin'* was revived in the 1970s by the former Soft Machine drummer Robert Wyatt.

The Quartet was founded, suitably enough, in a barber's shop in the Norfolk, Virginia, suburb of Berkeley in the early 1930s. The hairdresser A. C. "Eddie" Griffin and the bass vocalist Robert "Peg" Ford recruited high school glee club members Owens and Johnson to accompany them in the new jubilee style of quartet singing. Johnson, recalling the formation of the group's style, said in 1980: "We were singing in every church that let a quartet sing in it. The main churches that got to me were the Holiness churches, because they sang with a beat. And whenever I got around to training the group, I'd give our things a beat."

By 1935 the group was touring locally, and Griffin, satisfied that he had set the group on the road to stardom, went back to his barber's shop to be replaced by Landford. The elderly Ford, who had begun to miss dates because of sickness, retired in 1936 to be replaced by Wilson, who had spent his early life in Hodges Ferry, a small rural area near Chesapeake. The group now had its classic line-up, the showy, stylised Landford, the melancholy Owens, the witty and sly Johnson and underneath it all, Wilson with his superb sense of swing and timing.

REDFERNS/MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVE



The Golden Gate Quartet, with Orlandus Wilson second from bottom

With regular radio appearances, the Gates soon became one of the most popular gospel acts on the scene, and it was not long before they came to the notice of the record scout Eli Oberstein, who worked for the Bluebird label, a budget label run by the mighty RCA. In 1937 Oberstein recorded the quartet in an hotel in Charlotte, North Carolina, where in just two hours they recorded 14 numbers — all but two of them in just one take. Their debut release, *Golden Gate Gospel Train*, became their theme song.

By 1938 with their records becoming huge sellers among blacks, the group had their first exposure to white audiences, with an appearance in the famous "Spirituals to Swing" concert organised by John Hammond at Carnegie Hall. This was followed by a national radio show, as well as a long-term engagement at a famous New York nightspot, the Cafe Society club.

By 1941 such was their stature that President Roosevelt invited the group to appear at his inaugural gala at Washington's Constitutional Hall, the first black group to do so. Now at the height of fame the quartet were touring with swing bands and playing to packed houses. Ira Tucker, the lead singer with another famous gospel group, the Dixie Hummingbirds, recalled seeing them live during that era. "They used to snatch their words. At the end of a song they blended harmony and would hold a note sometimes for 15 seconds."

They also influenced the soul star James Brown in his early and lawless days. As a teenager he performed gospel at home with two schoolfriends. "We sang *Old Jonah* and *Blind Barnabus* and tried to imitate the Golden Gate Quartet. Really, gospel is what got me over, especially after I went to prison."

Landford left the group in the 1940s to be replaced by Clyde Riddick, and the group made cameo appearances in several Hollywood films, including *Star-Spangled Rhythm* and *Hollywood Canteen*. By 1950 Owens and Johnson had left, and the next few years saw the quartet battling against the tide of rhythm and blues groups. But they had new worlds to conquer.

They made their first European tour in 1955 to huge acclaim, and in the following years they would record and eventually base themselves in France. Their stay there was long, happy and productive. Personnel changes occurred, but Wilson and Riddick remained to give stability and a flavour of the early days.

Wilson leaves a widow and a son.

SIR REGINALD WILSON

Sir Reginald Wilson, former Chairman of the National Freight Corporation, died on January 1 aged 93. He was born on July 10, 1905.

REGINALD WILSON was one of the most successful of those accountants who by their energy and merit came to direct some of the most powerful corporations in the country. From his earliest days he had a concentrated eye for financial success. He often told the story of his inquiry in the 1920s into the smash of Swedish Match Company and of his grateful astonishment when he found that the company could be made viable.

In the 1950s he used the same techniques when he was Comptroller of the British Transport Commission to pronounce that British Railways could perfectly easily earn profits if only £1,500 million were spent on modernisation. In this case, however, the success he sought notoriously did not materialise. It was left for Dr Beeching, later in the 1960s, to set a new course for the railways.



Yet Wilson had a great and lasting success when, after leaving the railways, he became chairman of the Transport Holding Company and later of the National Freight Corporation. He found a true niche as head of organisations in which he could decentralise the management into comparatively small and homogeneous subsidiary companies. The virtues of this policy for the Transport Holding Company were so apparent to the Government that the Transport Act of 1968 bore Wilson's unmistakable stamp.

In tune with his unflagging energy, he spoke often about his professional objectives. Papers to the British Association and the Institute of Transport led him to the presidency of the latter body in 1957. He was a compelling speaker, often deliberately provocative. Abandoning all pretence of intellectual neutrality, he provoked equal and opposite reactions, but, as he well knew, not the least of his achievements was stirring people into action.

Reginald Holmes Wilson was the son of Alexander Wilson. Educated at St Lawrence, Ramsgate, and at London University, he became a Scottish chartered accountant and then served in Whitney, Murray & Co, becoming a partner in 1937. Subsequently he joined Brown, Fleming & Murray. Soon after the outbreak of war he went to the Treasury. In 1941, after a term in the Ministry of Shipping, he was appointed Director of Finance in the Ministry of War Transport. In 1945 he became Under-Secretary in the peacetime ministry.

Soon his activities widened. He served on the 1947 Royal Commission on the Press, the Control Commission in Germany, the Hemel Hempstead Development Corporation (as vice-chairman), the New Towns Finance Committee (as chairman) and the North German Iron and Steel Council.

In 1947 he took the step which led to his industrial success — into transport as Comptroller of the British Transport Commission. In 1953 he widened his scope as a member of the British Transport Commission, subsequently becoming chairman of the Eastern and then the London Midland Railway regional boards. In 1962 he left the railways for the Transport Holding Company as deputy chairman, rising to chairman in 1967. In 1969 he became the first chairman of the National Freight Corporation.

He was knighted in 1951 and among his distinctions were the Award of Merit of the Institute of Transport in 1953 and the presidency of that institute in 1957.

Reginald Wilson was twice married and is survived by his second wife, Sonia, whom he married in 1938, and by a son and a daughter of his first marriage.

ON THIS DAY

January 29, 1918

The first air raid on London was on May 31, 1915; thereafter they became frequent, causing many casualties. The King denounced the raids as murder of which the Germans seemed proud, and Lord Fisher thought that a batch of German PoWs should be shot for every raid.

AIR RAID LAST NIGHT

The following communiqués were issued by the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief Home Forces last night:—

January 28, 11.15pm

Hostile aeroplanes crossed the Kent and Essex coasts shortly before 8pm, and proceeded towards London.

Some machines penetrated to the capital, where bombs were dropped between 9 and 10pm.

Latest reports show that one enemy machine was brought down by our airmen in Essex.

January 29, 12.45am

A further attack was delivered on London after midnight, bombs being dropped about 12.30.

The raid is still in progress.

A FULL-MOON RAID

The first air raid of the year on London took place last night. The last raid occurred on December 18, so that the capital had been free from the unwelcome attentions of enemy airmen for just on six weeks.

The December raid, as *The Times* then observed, took the public somewhat by surprise. The same cannot be said for last night's raid. On the contrary, the surprise has rather been that we have been left alone for so long a time. The last raid occurred when the moon was quite young, with a slight mist hanging over the river. The present raid, on the other hand, almost coincided with the full moon, which fell on Sunday, and the atmosphere was perfectly clear. It was, too, considerably colder last night than it had been for some time past.

Again, the December raid began at an early hour. The warning came just as business people were preparing to go home, with the result that large numbers of them were kept in town for several hours. The warning last night came later, by which time the majority of people had reached their homes. The consequence was that much fewer people were to be seen congregating for shelter than on the previous occasion. In other respects last night's raid followed much the same course as its predecessor.

As soon as the police warning was given the public made for the shelters, which are now well known to them, and congregated without panic or disorder in the tubes, subways, and basements of large buildings, which serve on such occasions for protection. Nobody, of course, cares for these raids; but on the whole the crowds last night were quite good-natured, and accepted the situation with philosophic calm.

The two or three enemy machines which succeeded in penetrating the defences were attacked by British aeroplanes. One enemy machine was attacked by our airmen, and the rapid exchange of machine-gun fire was heard, while the flashes of the guns could be seen. The raider appeared to break off the contest, and was subjected to a severe bombardment from the anti-aircraft guns. Eye-witnesses declare that the enemy craft seemed to be in difficulties and was forced to descend to a comparatively low altitude.

THE TIMES TODAY

Health fund raided to pay nurses

The Government sparked protests yesterday by announcing that it is to raid the £1 billion health service modernisation fund to finance big pay rises for nurses.
Downing Street angered health service managers when it admitted that it intended to use money earmarked for reducing waiting lists and buying high-technology equipment to top up the nurses' pay award..........Page 1

Ritz besieged by photographers

The biggest aluminium army seen on the streets of London for some years besieged the Ritz in Piccadilly last night in the hope of snatching the picture of the decade. More than 100 photographers crammed a 30-yard stretch of pavement on the strength of a tip-off that the Prince of Wales would finally present himself in public with Camilla Parker Bowles..........Page 1

Mandelson sells up

Peter Mandelson may well have to start at the bottom and work his way up from a "smallish" flat when he sells his spacious townhouse in Notting Hill.......Page 1

Killer's lover tells all

The husband of the deputy headteacher Kathryn Linaker, *who was stabbed to death, told a* court of his sex sessions with the woman who killed her......Page 3

Trimble wants action

David Trimble accused the IRA *of breaking its ceasefire by murdering* Eamon Collins, the IRA defector. He demanded that the Government *take action*..........Page 4

Prisoners tagged

In the next 12 months it is estimated that 30,000 prisoners serving the final stretches of sentences of *between three months and four* years will be tagged in a new early-release scheme..........Page 9

Minister attacks gifts

As the "gifts-for-favours" scandal *envelops the International Olympic* Committee, Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, bemoans the present-giving culture in sport and politics..........Pages 10, 19

Organ donation fears

The future of organ transplants is threatened by a growing shortage of both donors and specialists capable of carrying out the life-saving operations, a new report claims..........Page 11

Bargain ballet

The Royal Opera House set out to dispel its elitist image by announcing that it was slashing ticket prices, staying open day and night and taking opera and ballet into the community..........Page 12

Public losing faith

The public has become increasing*ly sceptical about the Govern*ment's ability to deliver on its promises, according to the latest *MORI poll*..........Page 13

UN chief backs force

Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, strongly supported Nato's threat of force in Kosovo, *saying that Bosnia had un*derlined the need to use it when other means failed..........Page 17

Albright visits Jordan

The American Secretary of State, *Madeleine Albright, paid a hasti*ly arranged call on Jordan's novice Crown Prince in an attempt to *put the weight of the United* States behind him..........Page 18

Chaos in Colombia

Chaos reigned in Colombia's earthquake disaster zone as thou*sands of homeless and hungry* survivors went on a looting rampage..........Page 20

Clinton's new peril

The White House began to focus on the peril of a criminal prosecution of President Clinton after office, as the Senate trudged on with the "show trial"........Page 21

Policeman arrests brother over toy

A policeman arrested his older brother for swearing after a simmering ten-year disagreement over a rare Dinky toy reached boiling point, a court heard. PC Roy Lewis-Tatton, 33, arrested his brother Paul, 39, after a row at Paul's house in Bilborough, Nottingham, last October. But magistrates threw the case out of court after hearing of the long-running feud..........Page 3



Five seal pups, hand reared after being abandoned, returned to the wild in Pembrokeshire yesterday, wearing caps so they can be spotted by naturalists

Volvo sale: Ford has fought off competition from Fiat to agree to buy Volvo's passenger car division for £3.9 billion..........Page 29

Yahoo! deal: Internet mania reached *new* heights yesterday when Yahoo! agreed to take over GeoCities for $3.56 billion (£2.16 bil*lion*)..........Page 29

Rival bids: Federal Mogul, the United States car components group, is considering mounting a rival offer to the £4 billion bid that was made for LucasVarity by TRW, also of the US..........Page 29

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 3.90 points to 5872.5. The pound also fell 0.45 cents to $1.6477 but rose 0.34p against the euro to 69.29p. The sterling index rose to 100.6 from 100.3..........Page 32

Football: John Gregory, the Aston Villa manager, has criticised Stan Collymore, who is seeking counselling for stress..........Page 56

Cricket: Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, received a six-match suspended ban after a four-hour disciplinary hearing that followed the incidents in the international against England......Page 56

Sailing: Tony Bullimore, the yachtsman whose life was saved by the Australian Navy two years ago, is planning a return to the sport in The Race, a non-stop round-the-world event..........Page 50

Rugby union: Harry Williams, the Ulster director of rugby, is bemused but delighted by the success of his team in reaching the final of the European Cup..........Page 53

Richard Morrison: "It's hard not to conclude that the Arts Council has been deliberately reduced to this pointless existence by a Government that wants hands-on control of the arts"..........Page 44

Heads he loses: Images of Charles I in a new show commemorating his execution 350 years ago reveal early evidence of political spindoctoring by artists..........Page 45

Pop 1: *Sitting pretty at No 2 in the* singles chart with *Tequila*, the Bradford four-piece Terrorvision is everything a band should be, says Caitlin Moran..........Page 46

Pop 2: David Sinclair reviews the week's top pop album releases. Plus how British Asian music has marched out of the underground into the mainstream..........Page 47

Jane Shilling: "Hats are aphoristic. You allow the essence of your personality to be revealed by a hemisphere of fabric"..........Page 22

Freetime: A psychologist says techno-stressed workers need a daily "human moment" free of e-mail and voicemail..........Page 23

Telecommunications: Data transmission will soon surpass speaking on the telephone as the dominant form of long-distance communication..........Page 36-38

Live and kicking: Raymond Snoddy explains why the former MP David Mellor is more in demand than ever, as a sports and music pundit..........Page 42

Damage: "It is hard to imagine a legal forum in which such damaging allegations could be heard without any defence." John O'Leary on a case of dubious justice..........Page 49

The announcement by Indonesia that it is preparing to offer independence *to East Timor, the territo*ry Indonesia invaded in 1975, comes as a welcome sign that the long nightmare may be about to end. Human rights groups estimate that 200,000 people were wiped out.

The Boston Globe

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES ON SATURDAY

■ **KAZAN'S LIST**
The belated Oscar which will cause a storm

■ **AY CARUMBA!**
The new SIMPSONS comic strip



Preview: World Cup chaos hits Luton Airport in *Airline* (ITV, 8pm)
Review: Joe Joseph and a new impression of *Monet*..........Pages 54, 55

The Bell debate

The Lords debate not only vindicates the stance of *The Times* in the Bell case. It offers a necessary corrective to those who would wish to see the already extensive restrictions on freedom of information in Britain further *tightened*... Page 25

Polls apart

Twenty months beyond a *landslide* victory, Tony Blair and his Government continue to defy the laws of political gravity..........Page 25

Some like it cold

Where are the snows of yesteryear? Shakespeare's winter of icicles hanging by the wall is an ancestral memory..........Page 25

PETER RIDDELL

The main virtue the Tories now need is patience. People may still not have time for them, but that does not mean they are starry-eyed about the Government..........Page 13

SIMON JENKINS

With the virtual collapse of countryside development control under the Tories, southern England is set to become Virginia Water from Hyde Park to Land's End..........Page 24

MARY ANN SIEGHART

You have to sympathise with Mr Hague: if these are yesterday's men, it is hard to see where tomorrow's people are coming from. The new Shadow Cabinet entrants are hardly enthralling..........Page 24

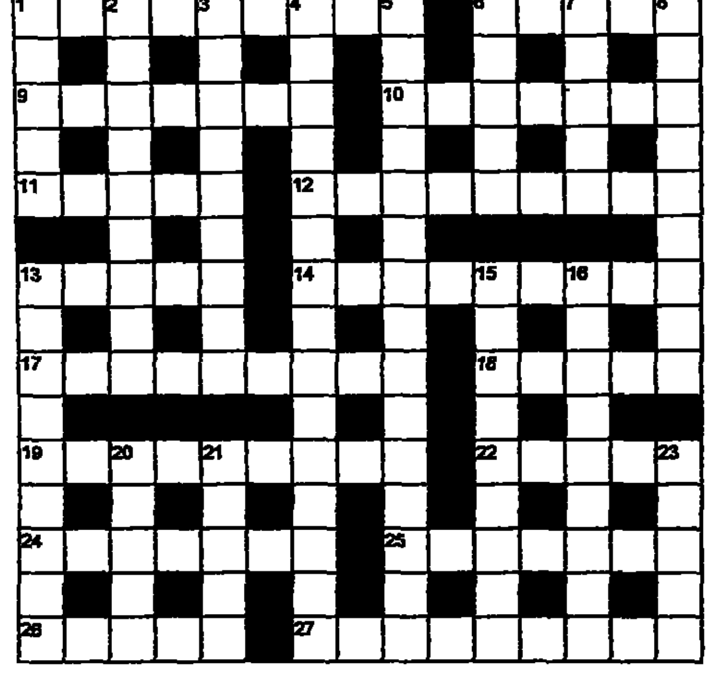
PHILIP HOWARD

The BBC television cloak-and-dagger, Tricolour-and-tripe, guillotine-and-galliard historicals about the Scarlet Pimpernel on Sunday night drive me back to the children's bookshelf..........Page 24

Major-General Michael Halford, infantry officer; **August Everding**, opera director; **Orlandus Wilson**, singer with the Golden Gate Quartet; **Sir Reginald Wilson**, accountant..........Page 27

News reporting; sex on TV; marketing farmers' produce; court and TV; oldest title in Lords; Christians in India; devotion to animals; unmistakable Britishness..........Page 25

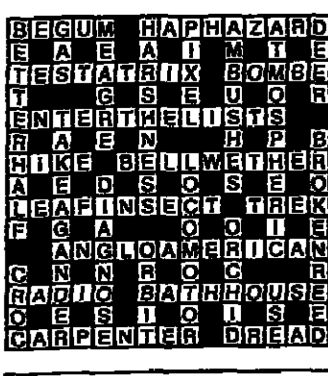
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,013



ACROSS
1 Shameless, having had a close shave (9).
6 Messenger – one of those on horseback, possibly (5).
9 Coach *repeated direction* for beginner (7).
10 A foreign second team appears to slacken off (7).
11 Charitable donations one collected back in Indian town (5).
12 Concerned about immediate future, as *result of premature birth?* (5-4).
13 An altogether sound direction (5).
14 Vicious brawl in Hyde Park (6,3).
17 Superficial courtesy fashionable in old epistles (9).
18 One relying, perhaps, on spin doctor? That's right (5).
19 Relief of pain Galen contrived in East (9).
22 During epidemic left Winchester, say (5).
24 Joint is covered with this fat, finally, in Spanish dish (7).
25 Benevolent cardinal, possibly, in *the flesh* (7).
26 Way in which champion competed (5).
27 Documentary evidence of championship feat (5-4).

DOWN
1 Dame Clara's targets (5).
2 Dreadfully alarmed to find broken rocks in the way (4,5).
3 One constructing castle in Spain – infanta's is transformed to some extent (9).
4 Unlikely to crumple, like a stonewaller? (6-9).
5 Horse, for example, offered for sale that's hard to shift (4,2,3,6).
6 Old coin collection is a valuable possession (5).
7 Greedily devour Cheddar, for ex*ample* (5).
8 It helps those who want to make the cut at St. Andrew's (9).
13 *Silk hat worn by clumsy actor is* an encumbrance aloft (3-6).
15 Fortitude shown by French in Al*pine river* (9).
16 Buttress supporting church needs check at the top (9).
20 Silly action against Conservative (5).
21 Frozen like some eels, we hear (5).
23 Wound up, but stopped (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,012



BEGUM HAPHAZARD
E A E A I M T E
TESTATRIX BOMBE
T G S E U O R
ENTERTHELISTS
R A E N H P B
HIKE BELLWETHER
A E D S O S E O
LEAFINSECT TREK
F G A O O I E
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C N N R O C R
RADIO BATHHOUSE
O E S I O I S E
CARPENTER DREAD

Times Two Crossword, page 56

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Sun rises: 7.43 am — Sun sets: 4.43 pm
Moon sets: 5.45 am — Moon rises: 2.36 pm
Full moon January 31

London 4.43 pm to 7.42 am
Bristol 4.54 pm to 7.52 am
Edinburgh 4.39 pm to 8.12 am
Manchester 4.45 pm to 7.58 am
Penzance 5.10 pm to 8.00 am

☐ **General:** after a cold, misty start, N England mainly dry with sunny spells. Wales, SW England, East Anglia drizzly. The Midlands and SE England largely dry; the odd sunny break. Central and E Scotland bright, cold at first; cloudier later. W Scotland and N Ireland dull with light rain or drizzle. Tonight mist and fog inland; patchy frost.

☐ **London, SE, Cent S England, Midlands:** overnight rain will clear; a few sunny spells. Light, variable wind. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **E Anglia, E England:** cloudy with drizzle. Light, variable wind. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Ch'nl Is, SW Eng, S Wales:** cloudy with drizzle. Light NW wind. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **N Wales, NW, Cent N, NE Eng, Lakes, IoM:** early mist, low cloud, mainly dry, a few sunny spells. Light NW wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Bordrs, E'burgh & Dundee, A'bdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, Orkney:** cold, bright start; turning cloudy, drizzle possible. Light W to SW wind. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **SW, NE, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll:** cloudy with light rain; drier by afternoon. Light westerly wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Shetland:** cloudy, drizzle; maybe a few bright spells. Light SW wind. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **N Ireland:** cloudy, outbreaks of drizzle, esp on hills. Light W wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Rep of Ireland:** drizzle in W; bright/sunny spells in E. Light W wind. Max 12C (54F)

☐ **Outlook:** overnight fog will clear slowly tomorrow; then mainly dry. Sunday quite cloudy; SE may be brighter and colder.

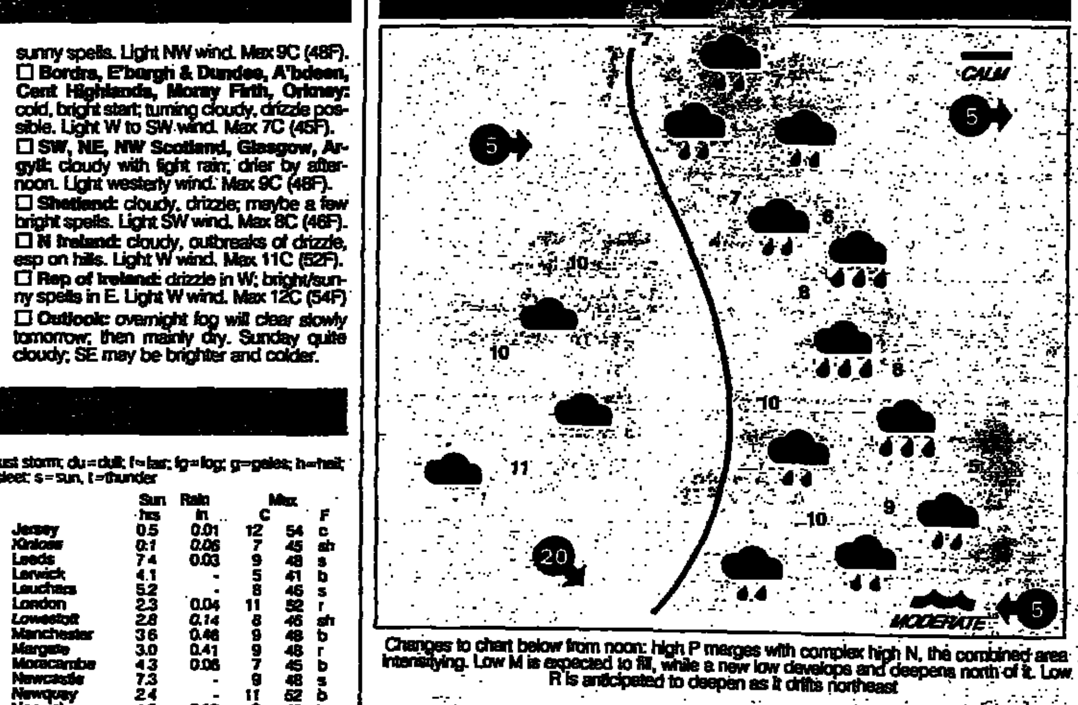
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	5.8	0.04	8	46	s	Jersey	0.5	0.01	12	54	c
Anglesey	-	0.14	9	48	r	Kinloss	0.1	0.06	7	45	sh
Aspatria	3.3	0.02	8	46	sh	Leeds	7.4	0.03	9	48	s
Aviemore	0.2	0.11	5	41	sh	Lerwick	4.1	-	5	41	b
Belfast	1.1	0.33	8	46	c	Leuchars	5.2	-	8	46	s
Birmingham	3.8	0.33	9	48	s	London	2.3	0.04	11	52	r
Bognor R	2.1	0.03	11	52	b	Lowestoft	2.8	0.14	8	46	sh
Bournemth	0.5	0.04	12	54	sh	Manchester	3.6	0.46	9	48	b
Bristol	0.7	0.01	12	54	c	Margate	3.0	0.41	9	48	r
Buxton	3.1	0.76	6	43	s	Morecambe	4.3	0.06	7	45	b
Cardiff	0.2	0.04	12	54	c	Newcastle	7.3	-	9	48	s
Clacton	2.0	0.32	9	48	b	Newquay	2.4	-	11	52	b
Cleethorpes	5.2	0.23	9	48	s	Norwich	4.0	0.17	8	46	b
Colwyn Bay	0.4	0.65	9	48	r	Oxford	2.1	0.06	11	52	r
Cromer	3.5	0.18	7	45	s	Penzance	5.0	0.01	14	57	d
Edinburgh	6.2	-	9	48	s	Prestatyn	1.5	0.48	8	46	c
Eskdalemuir	5.5	0.12	6	43	s	Ross on Wye	1.2	0.01	11	52	b
Exmouth	1.0	0.02	12	54	c	Saunton Sands	2.7	0.05	10	50	s
Fishguard	-	0.13	9	48	r	Scarborough	6.3	0.11	7	45	s
Folkestone	3.2	0.24	11	52	r	Shrewsbury	2.5	0.25	9	48	r
Glasgow	5.7	0.07	9	48	s	Skegness	4.5	0.24	9	48	sh
Guernsey	0.1	0.01	12	54	c	Stornoway	2.2	0.15	8	46	sh
Hastings	4.0	0.09	12	54	sh	Swanage	0.7	0.01	12	54	d
Hayling I.	1.8	0.04	12	54	sh	Teignmouth	1.1	0.01	13	55	c
Herne Bay	1.8	0.31	10	50	b	Tenby	2.2	0.02	11	52	d
Hove	1.6	0.01	12	54	b	Tiree	2.4	0.08	8	46	sh
Hunstanton	1.8	0.21	7	45	b	Torquay	1.6	-	13	55	c
Isle of Man	1.4	0.40	9	48	c	Weymouth	0.5	0.01	13	55	c
Isle of Wight	X	0.05	11	52	sh						

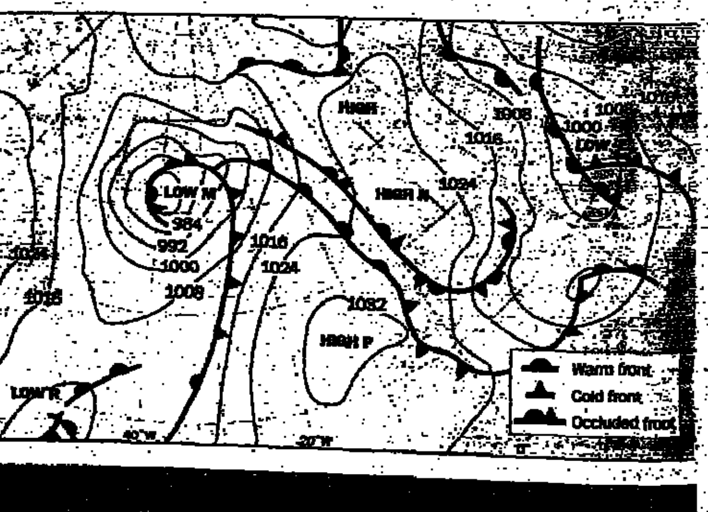
Yesterday: highest day max: Penzance, Cornwall, 14C (57F); lowest day max: Sella Ness, Shetland, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Capel Curig, Gwynedd, 1.69in; most sunshine: Leeds, 7.4hr

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	12	54	r	Cologne	5	41	r	Madrid	10	50	s	Rome	14	57	f
Akrotiri	15	59	s	C'phagn	0	32	c	Majorca	15	59	f	Salzburg	3	37	c
Alex'dria	18	64	s	Corfu	13	55	f	Malaga	17	63	s	S Frisco	9	48	s
Algiers	16	61	f	Dublin	6	43	d	Malta	15	59	s	Santiago	29	84	s
Amst'dm	6	43	r	Dubrovnik	9	48	r	Melbourne	X			S Paulo	X		
Athens	15	59	s	Faro	15	59	s	Mexico C	19	66	s	Seoul	7	45	r
Bahrain	13	66	s	Florence	9	48	c	Miami	25	77	s	Singapore	30	86	f
Bangkok	32	90	f	Frankfurt	4	39	f	Milan	7	45	f	Stockholm	-12	10	s
Barbados	25	77	r	Funchal	18	64	f	Montreal	-4	25	s	Strasb'rg	6	43	f
Barcelona	9	48	f	Geneva	5	41	c	Moscow	-11	12	sn	Sydney	23	73	c
Beirut	12	54	f	Gibraltar	16	61	s	Munich	2	36	c	Tangier	15	59	f
Belgrade	1	34	fg	Helsinki	-20	-4	sn	Nairobi	28	82	s	Tel Aviv	15	59	s
Berlin	3	37	f	Hong K	24	75	s	Naples	X			Tenerife	20	68	f
Bermuda	18	64	f	Innsbruck	3	37	f	N Delhi	17	63	s	Tokyo	10	50	f
Biarritz	11	52	r	Istanbul	9	48	s	N York	6	43	s	Toronto	0	32	c
Bordeaux	10	50	c	Jeddah	30	86	s	Nice	16	61	s	Tunis	16	61	f
Brussels	7	45	f	Jo'burg	23	73	f	Oslo	-7	19	sn	Valencia	17	63	f
Budapest	-1	30	c	L Palmas	21	70	s	Paris	7	45	f	Vanc'ver	5	41	r
B Aires	27	81	f	Le Touquet	6	43	f	Perth	X			Venice	6	43	f
Beijing	6	43	s	Lisbon	14	57	c	Prague	1	34	f	Vienna	4	39	s
Cairo	19	66	s	Locarno	7	45	s	Reykjavik	2	36	f	Warsaw	1	34	c
Cape Tn	X			L Angeles	11	52	s	Rhodes	14	57	f	Wash'ton	9	48	s
Chicago	7	45	s	Luxembourg	3	37	c	Rio de J	29	84	s	Zurich	2	36	sn
Ch'church	X			Luxor	21	70	s	Riyadh	20	68	s				

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: High P merges with complex high N, the combined area intensifying. Low M is expected to fill, while a new low develops and deepens north of it. Low R is anticipated to deepen as it drifts northeast



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	11:33	4.1	-	-	Liverpool	9:14	8.6	21:42	8.9
Avonmouth	4:54	11.8	17:31	12.1	London Bridge	11:51	6.6	-	-
Belfast	9:00	3.3	21:33	3.3	Lowestoft	7:13	2.4	19:47	2.4
Cardiff	4:40	10.9	17:17	11.3	Margate	9:50	4.4	22:31	4.4
Devonport	3:29	5.0	16:06	4.9	Milford Haven	4:08	6.2	16:38	6.3
Dover	8:55	6.1	21:30	6.2	Newquay	3:04	6.2	15:32	6.4
Dublin	9:44	4.1	22:07	4.1	Oban	4:06	3.5	16:38	3.6
Falmouth	3:00	4.8	15:37	4.7	Penzance	2:30	5.0	14:59	5.1
Greenock	10:19	3.2	23:06	3.2	Portland	4:19	1.7	16:57	1.7
Harwich	9:39	3.7	22:15	3.7	Portsmouth	9:24	4.5	21:54	4.4
Holyhead	8:26	5.2	20:51	5.3	Shoreham	9:02	5.7	21:41	5.7
Hull (Albert D)	4:04	8.1	16:41	8.1	Southampton	8:53	4.3	21:26	4.4
Ilfracombe	3:48	8.2	16:21	8.5	Swansea	4:04	11.4	16:36	11.6
King's Lynn	4:09	5.8	16:37	6.0	Tees	1:27	8.5	14:01	9.6
Leith	0:14	5.1	12:46	5.2	Walton-On-Naze	9:37	3.9	22:13	3.9

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

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THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



BUSINESS Monty and the case of the big investors PAGE 33



ARTS Is Choque Hosein the face of pop's future? PAGES 44-47



MEDIA Jackson out of running for Birt's job PAGES 40-43

TELEVISION AND RADIO Pages 54, 55

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft · FRIDAY JANUARY 29 1999

Ford agrees £4bn deal to buy Volvo's car division

BY ADAM JONES

FORD has fought off competition from Fiat to agree a deal to buy Volvo's passenger car division for £3.9 billion.

Volvo, which is keeping its commercial vehicle activities, also revealed that it will close its only UK factory — a truck assembly plant in Irvine, Ayrshire — in July 2000 with the loss of 250 jobs. The Swedish group cut 250 other jobs at Irvine before Christmas, when it withdrew bus assembly work.

Ford's foray across the Atlantic is the latest outbreak of merger mania in the global car industry, which is hurting from too much manufacturing capacity and the high cost of developing new vehicles. It follows the purchase of Chrysler by Daimler-Benz last year.

Volvo said its car business, which had sales of about £7.6 billion last year, needed economies of scale. The sale focuses Volvo on buses and trucks, construction equipment, engines and aerospace. It is expected to launch a bid for Scania, its rival truckmaker in Sweden. Volvo bought 13 per cent earlier this month, a move Scania likened to a hostile bid.

Shares in Henlys, the UK bus and coachmaker, rose from 428½p to 472½p yesterday amid speculation that Volvo would seek to increase its stake. Volvo bought 10 per cent last year.

Fiat admitted yesterday that it had wanted to buy all of Volvo, not just the passenger car division. Volkswagen was also thought to want the car operation but a source close to the deal dismissed speculation that General Motors had been interested.

Ford, the second-biggest car group in the world after Toyota, sold about 6.8 million vehicles last year. Volvo sold about 400,000. Ford said its success with Jaguar, the UK luxury carmaker that it revived and expanded, showed that it can run a foreign subsidiary at arm's length without blurring its identity, tradition and appeal.

The Volvo name will be used by both Ford and the rump Volvo. A joint company has been set up to own the brand and license it to both.

Ford said the deal would enhance earnings in the first year. It said Volvo had a following among female and young buyers who cannot afford its existing luxury cars, Jaguar and Lincoln.

Ford may distribute Volvos alongside its own cars and is likely to broaden the product range. New Volvos may eventually be developed jointly with other Fords, using common "platforms" to save money. From 200,000 last year, Ford wants to sell 700,000 luxury cars in 2000, including Volvos, and then increase this to a million in the new millennium. It said it was too early to say how the deal would affect UK plants but there appear to be no great fears for job losses. Volvo's car operation employs 190 in the UK. Up to 5,000 work in independent dealerships selling Volvos.

The future of Volvo's production joint venture with Mitsubishi in The Netherlands is in danger. Jac Nasser, Ford chief executive, said it would continue for now. The Ford deal is likely to be put to Volvo shareholders in March for approval.

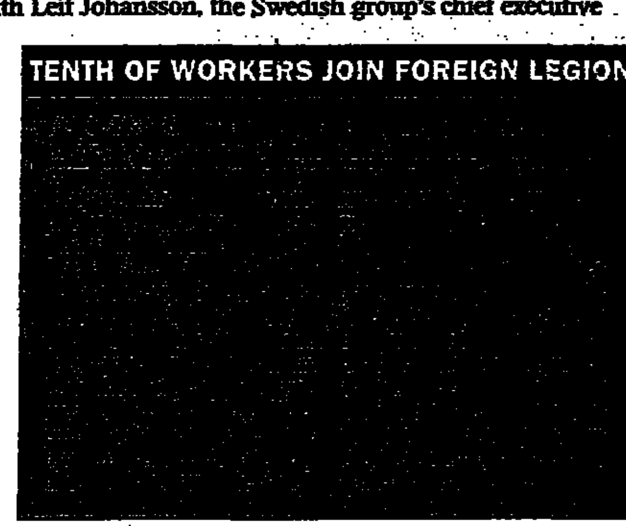
The Volvo trucks work lost from Irvine will be transferred to underused plants in Belgium and Sweden. The timing of the closure announcement angered union officials, who said that they had been asked to prepare a business plan to save the plant, which they were due to discuss with Lord Macdonald of Tradeston, the Scottish Industry Minister, yesterday afternoon. The AEEU said a further 500-1,000 jobs were indirectly threatened by the closure.

Driving seat, page 33



BJORN OLSSON / AP

Jac Nasser, left, yesterday sealed the purchase of Volvo's passenger car division with Leif Johansson, the Swedish group's chief executive



TRW bid could see fresh offer for Lucas

BY PAUL DURMAN

FEDERAL-MOGUL, the US car components group, is considering mounting a counter-bid to TRW's £4 billion takeover offer for LucasVarity, the UK-based manufacturer of braking and fuel injection systems.

TRW, a leading American producer of steering and suspension systems, ended days of speculation with a cash offer worth 288p a share that was recommended by LucasVarity's board.

However, some analysts believe TRW has failed to land a knockout blow, and that Federal-Mogul's interest could drive the bidding as high as 320p a share. LucasVarity's shares ended 7p higher at 290½p.

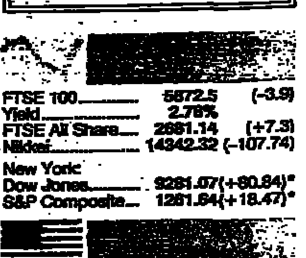
Federal-Mogul, which has tabled a conditional 280p offer, demanded that it should have access to any information that LucasVarity has provided to TRW. The Takeover Panel will force LucasVarity to comply with this demand.

The TRW deal would allow Victor Rice, LucasVarity's chief executive, to take over as head of the enlarged group's automotive operations. It is believed Dick Snell, Federal-Mogul's chairman and chief executive, sees no role for Mr Rice if his bid should succeed.

LucasVarity has agreed to pay TRW £30 million if its offer fails. Joe Gorman, TRW's chairman and chief executive, hopes to wring $200 million (£121 million) of savings from the deal by the end of 2001, suggesting the need for substantial job losses among LucasVarity's 51,000 employees.

TRW, smaller than LucasVarity by market value, believes the deal would produce an immediate enhancement to its earnings — even before any synergies. The deal, the largest cash acquisition in the auto component industry, would create a group with sales of £11.5 billion.

Commentary, page 31



BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100	5872.5	(-3.9)
Yield	2.78%	
FTSE All Share	2681.14	(+7.3)
Nikkei	14342.32	(-107.74)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9281.07	(+80.84)*
S&P Composite	1261.64	(+18.47)*
Federal Funds	4¾%*	(4[illegible]%)
Long bond	102.00*	(101[illegible])
Yield	5.12%*	(5.13%)
3-mth Interbank	5[illegible]%	(5[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	120.03	(120.11)
New York:		
$	1.6473*	(1.6457)
London:		
$	1.6478	(1.6521)
€	1.4432	(1.4362)
SFr	2.3256	(2.3092)
Yen	191.51	(190.68)
£ Index	100.6	(100.3)
London:		
€	1.1397*	(1.1445)
SFr	1.4165*	(1.4090)
Yen	116.27*	(115.73)
$ Index	105.6	(104.9)
Tokyo close Yen 115.48		
Brent 15-day (Apr)	$11.00	($11.00)
London close	$284.05	($284.55)

Exchange rates .... Page 30

* denotes midday trading prices

Premier plan

Premier Farnell shares recovered 18 per cent after the chief executive of the distributor of electronic components unveiled plans to invest £30 million a year in an attempt to revitalise its businesses.

Page 31

Sorry Save

Save Group, Britain's largest independent petrol retailer, has been hit hard by Esso's long-running Pricewatch campaign, prompting it to pass payment of a final dividend because of an anticipated fall in 1998 profits. But chairman James Frost believes the outlook for 1999 is brighter.

Page 31

Experts see rates going under 4%

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

INTEREST RATES are set to fall to their lowest levels for nearly half a century as the British economy enjoys a "mild" slowdown, a leading economic think-tank predicted yesterday.

City hopes that the economy will avoid a major recession were also boosted by the latest bank lending data which showed mortgage and credit card borrowing remains firm.

The National Institute for *Economic and Social* Research (NIESR) forecasts in its latest *Economic Review* that interest rates will fall to below 4 per cent by early 2001, the lowest level since 1955, as inflationary pressures ease and the Government prepares for EMU entry.

The economy will avoid an "outright recession" with growth totalling 1 per cent this year and rebounding to 2.5 per cent in 2000. However, the Chancellor will need to maintain budget discipline to ensure interest rates fall towards European levels.

Figures published yesterday by the British Bankers' Association showed a small rise in seasonally adjusted net mortgage lending in December to £1.21 billion. Credit card borrowing also rose modestly to £4.91 billion, some 4 per cent higher than in December 1997.



WEBSITES: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ www.niesr.ac.uk

Yahoo! buys rival in $3.5bn move

INTERNET mania reached new heights yesterday when Yahoo! agreed to the $3.56 billion (£2.2 billion) takeover of GeoCities (Oliver August writes).

GeoCities, which helps Internet users to build their own Web pages, floated last autumn at $9 a share. On the first day of trading its shares shot up to $90 before falling back to $50. Yahoo!'s offer values them at $113. Retail investors stand to make a return of 1,200 per cent.

But the biggest winner — apart from the recently graduated company founders — is a venture capital fund. CMGI owns a 28 per cent stake, which it bought at the bargain price of 67 cents a share. The fund made a $1 billion profit on its $5 million investment.

Internet purchase page 30

Greenspan hits at Internet 'lottery'

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

ALAN GREENSPAN, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, yesterday warned investors that the "hype" surrounding Internet companies had introduced a "lottery premium" into their stock market valuations.

However, Mr Greenspan told the Senate Budget Committee that while the "vast majority are sure to fail", some small companies would succeed and take advantage of the "huge" potential market.

The Fed Chairman added that, despite the "hype and craziness", the frenzy actually showed the Wall Street market working in an effective manner because investors are prepared to shift capital into fresh opportunities before "earnings actually materialise".

Mr Greenspan also repeated his warning that the US economy cannot remain "an oasis of prosperity, if the rest of the world is in serious trouble".

The currency markets, however, ignored his comments, sending the dollar to a record high against the euro. Traders reacted to a string of strong US economic data to conclude that the US economy is in far better health than the European economy and that the European Central Bank will soon cut interest rates.

The euro slipped below $1.14 for the first time to trade at $1.1397. The pound also tracked the dollar higher to reach its own record high with the euro slipping from 69.63p to 69.29p.

Whitbread nursery group up for sale

BY DOMINIC WALSH

WHITBREAD'S David Lloyd Leisure arm is seeking a buyer for its Gatehouse Nursery chain, which ran into controversy last summer amid allegations of mistreatment of youngsters at its Enfield unit.

Gatehouse, which formed part of the David Lloyd acquisition in 1995, is one of the UK's biggest operators of private nurseries with 40 sites. Around half are located at David Lloyd Leisure clubs.

Steve Philpott, managing director of David Lloyd Leisure, said: "It is not part of our core business and, following a review, we have decided to sell it. The private nursery market has good prospects but is highly specialised."

Industry sources believe the council's decision to close the Enfield unit last year was a big factor in Whitbread's decision to seek an exit. "It's not what Whitbread are best at and the Enfield problems show the dangers inherent in the business," said one. "It's simply not worth the hassle."

The Enfield unit, which is at a David Lloyd club, has now reopened under the management of Busy Bees, a privately-owned rival and considered one of the likeliest buyers of the Gatehouse business. Whitbread declined to reveal its asking price, although experts believe the 20 stand-alone nurseries could be worth £10 million.

GRE board urged to accept a suitor

BY JASON NISSÉ

LEADING shareholders in Guardian Royal Exchange were yesterday urging the board of the insurer to accept one of the bids put on the table by Royal & SunAlliance, Eureko and AXA rather than vote to remain independent.

The GRE board meets today, and is being urged by John Robins, its chief executive, to reject the offers made in favour of a management-led option.

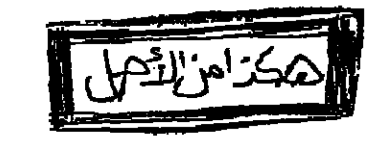
Mr Robins believes this proposal could see GRE valued at 420p a share — or £3.7 billion. The highest bid made in the auction is 390p a share from RSA with Eureko offering 385p and AXA bidding 370p.

However, the RSA offer has met with opposition from its own shareholders and there is concern about whether Eureko, which is a consortium of six mutual insurers, can raise the finance.

Yesterday a number of institutional investors told *The Times* that they would be unhappy with the board of GRE if it refused the offer on the table. "It is an unacceptable option to follow the management route," said Gerard Griffin of ING Barings Asset Management.

Another leading investor, who did not want to be named, said: "The directors have to know their duty and their duty is to obtain the best price.

Commentary page 31



Swiss and French to link up

THE Paris Bourse is joining forces with the Swiss Exchange, a move viewed by markets yesterday as a direct challenge to the similar partnership between London and Frankfurt.

Paris said it had signed an agreement with Zurich that would allow cross-membership by the end of March. Links between the two exchanges' trading systems will be in place by the summer.

Paris claims it is the world's fifth largest exchange with a domestic market capitalisation of £410 billion at the end of 1997, while Zurich ranks number six with a value of £348 billion. The joint-capitalisation of London and Frankfurt was nearly a trillion more at £1,751 billion.

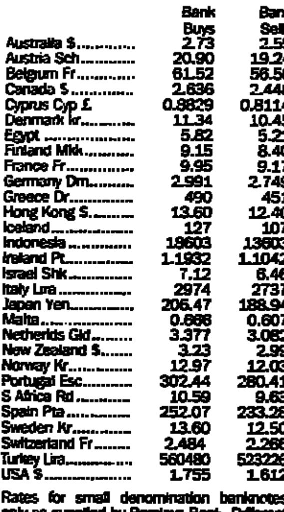
Havelock buy

Havelock Europa, the retail interiors and point-of-sale display group, has bought the in-house printing division of Kwik Save Stores, for up to £558,000. The company also announced it has added a £600,000 charge to the £1.4 million restructuring provision announced in June. Staffing has been cut by 75 to 800. The shares rose 4p to 31½p.

Gold Fields drops

Gold Fields, the world's second biggest gold producer, posted a 25 per cent drop in profits to 188 million rand (£19 million) in the quarter to the end of December. Earnings were hit by a strong rand and a 9 per cent rise in operating costs.

EXCHANGE RATES



	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.73	2.55
Austria Sch	20.90	19.24
Belgium Fr	61.52	56.56
Canada $	2.636	2.448
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8829	0.8114
Denmark Kr	11.34	10.45
Egypt	5.82	5.21
Finland Mkk	9.15	8.40
France Fr	9.95	9.17
Germany Dm	2.991	2.749
Greece Dr	490	451
Hong Kong $	13.60	12.40
Iceland	127	107
Indonesia	19603	13603
Ireland Pt	1.1932	1.1042
Israel Shk	7.12	6.46
Italy Lira	2974	2737
Japan Yen	206.47	188.94
Malta	0.666	0.607
Netherlds Gld	3.377	3.082
New Zealand $	3.23	2.99
Norway Kr	12.97	12.03
Portugal Esc	302.44	280.41
S Africa Rd	10.59	9.63
Spain Pta	252.07	233.28
Sweden Kr	13.60	12.50
Switzerland Fr	2.484	2.266
Turkey Lira	560480	523226
USA $	1.755	1.612

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Yahoo! set to challenge AOL's Net dominance

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

THE $3.56 billion (£2.2 billion) takeover of GeoCities by Yahoo! combines the second and third-most popular Internet websites and creates a credible threat to America Online (AOL), the industry leader.

Yahoo! is one of the main gateways to the Internet and GeoCities is one of the most-frequented sites, according to a survey conducted last month.

But while Yahoo! has established itself as an Internet brand name, GeoCities was a complete unknown on Wall Street until last autumn. Its flotation was delayed because of market turbulence and the offer price was dropped from $14 per share to $9.

The squabbling over the offer price now seems comical. Yahoo! is offering to pay $113.66 a share, a premium of 52 per cent over the last closing price. Under the terms of the deal, GeoCities shareholders will receive 0.3384 Yahoo! share for each share held.

The takeover is the third Internet mega-deal announced in a month after AtHome's acquisition of Excite for $6.7 billion and AOL acquired Netscape for $4.3 billion. They are all attempting to build companies whose websites are both popular now and have sufficient diversity of services to garner more business.

GeoCities was founded in 1994 and has never made a profit, nor earned any significant revenues. The last quarterly loss widened to $8.4 million from $3 million. Sales grew from $1.7 million in the quarter a year ago to $7.5 million. In 1998 as a whole, the company lost $20 million on revenues of $18 million.

Media Metrix, a Web research company, placed the geocities.com site in third place, with 18.98 million unique visitors, behind AOL's "aol.com" site, with 28.3 million users and Yahoo!'s main yahoo.com site, with 26.8 million users.

A combination of Yahoo! and GeoCities traffic could surpass AOL's traffic depending on how much their individual audiences overlap.

Yesterday's deal is Yahoo!'s first foray into the field of mergers and acquisitions. The company has a market value of $38.4 billion.



Andrew MacKenzie, who said confidence was improving

Signs of recovery reported by Bryant

BY ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

BRYANT GROUP, the housebuilder, said yesterday that demand for new homes was showing signs of recovery.

Andrew MacKenzie, chief executive, said: "Reservations before Christmas were a little disappointing (but) visitor levels and purchaser confidence do appear to be improving."

The comments came as Bryant posted interim profits of £29.5 million against £21.3 million for the half year to November 30. Mr MacKenzie said the company had seen weakness in the second quarter, but that it still managed to sell more houses and increase selling prices. The group's operating profit margin rose from 11 per cent to 13 per cent.

Kevin Cammack, housebuilding analyst at Merrill Lynch, the stockbroker, said: "These are reassuring numbers, not just for Bryant but for the sector as a whole."

The interim dividend was increased 5.5 per cent to 1.53p a share, payable from earnings that rose to 7.1p from 5.2p.

Tempus, page 32

Industry to get £13m in high-tech clean-up

BY PAUL DURMAN

THE Government is providing £13 million of funding to encourage businesses to make use of biotechnology to improve their energy efficiency and to cut down on pollution.

After the controversies over genetically-modified food and cloning, biotechnology is seen by many as more of a threat than a benefit. However, John Battle, Industry Minister, is keen to promote it as a technological force for the cost-effective greening of industry.

Yesterday he said: "We need to widen the debate. We are looking at how companies clean up the environment."

The Department of Trade and Industry suggests that making chemicals using biological reactions can avoid the need for high temperature processing and the production of unwanted by-products. In engineering, treatment tanks known as bioreactors can be used to prevent the bacterial contamination of cooling fluids and lubricants.

Mr Battle said: "Science is ambiguous. It can be used destructively or it can be used wisely well."

The new Bio-Wise initiative will provide grants, mostly to small firms, to allow them to apply biotechnology to their business.



WEBSITE:
http://www.dti.gov.uk/biowise
DTI Helpline: 0800-432100

Takeover talks give boost to Norcros

SHARES in Norcros, the building products supplier, leapt 20½p to 84½p yesterday after the company revealed that it was holding talks that could result in a takeover offer being made. Norcros refused to identify the other parties involved in the negotiations, but market speculation suggested any successful suitor would almost certainly break up the company. Norcros's key divisions include Triton Showers, tile businesses in the UK, Australia and South Africa and an adhesives business.

Analysts said that it had been a widespread belief in the market for some time that the sum of Norcros's parts was significantly greater than the whole. At yesterday's closing price the company is worth about £140 million. One analyst said conservative valuations of Norcros's divisions implied the company could be worth up to 120p a share.

Bensons Crisps 10% up

CONSUMERS munched their way through more than 685 million packets of Bensons Crisps' products in its last trading year, leading to a 10 per cent increase in turnover to £38 million (£34.5 million) in the year ending November 30. Pre-tax profit rose 18 per cent to £3 million (£2.55 million). Earnings per share were 4.19p (3.46p) and total dividend for the year is 2p (1.575p). The company said the improvements were because of the launch of a new range of savoury snacks and crisps.

Barbour Index rises

SHARES in Barbour Index, the supplier of specialist information, rose 24 per cent after the group announced it was in possible takeover talks. Patrick Barbour, chairman of the group until its flotation in 1996, is to step down from the board as executive director and dispose of his 42 per cent holding. At yesterday's closing price of 327½p, Mr Barbour would net about £24 million from the sale, 33 per cent of which is held in a trust. Last week Barbour posted first-half profits of £1.8 million (£1.9 million).

Cornwell Parker leaps

SHARES of Cornwell Parker jumped 33 per cent yesterday as the furniture and fabrics company said it is in merger talks with more than one company. Analysts pointed to Walker Greenbank and Silentnight as potential bidders, but both denied being involved. One industry source said: "Everyone believes that consolidation must happen in the sector, but nobody can see how." Cornwell Parker shares closed 21½p better at 87½p, capitalising the company at £36.5 million.

Mulberry losses grow

MULBERRY, the luxury goods group based in Somerset, is not paying an interim dividend due to deepening losses. The AIM-quoted company, which paid an interim dividend of 0.75p a year ago, made a pre-tax loss in the six months to September 30 of £563,000, from £480,000 a year ago. Loss per share was 2.7p (2.3p). It said trading remains difficult, and at mid-January like-for-like sales were down 6.5 per cent. Sales in the first half were down from £13.8 million to £12.9 million.

Lloyds TSB expands

LLOYDS TSB has agreed to buy the registration services business of Bank of Scotland. The deal consolidates Lloyds TSB's position in registration, increasing its market share to about 10 per cent. BoS provides share registration services to about 200 companies and administers investment trust savings schemes for 15 investment companies, equivalent to a 4 per cent market share.

Alphameric improves

ALPHAMERIC, the information technology group, said yesterday that it was seeing higher revenues in its data broadcast division and the retail division was increasing margins. It announced pre-tax profits of £900,000 for the eight months to November 30, against £10,000 for the year ended March 30 1998, the comparable period because of a change of year end. Earnings per share were 1.23p (0.02p) There is no dividend.

Bank of America pulls out of Docklands move

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BANK OF AMERICA said yesterday that its decision not to move to Canary Wharf in London's Docklands was based "purely on commercial grounds" and had no connection with the Government's position on the euro.

The bank, which last April announced a $133 billion (£83 billion) merger with US rival Nationsbank, also denied it had any plans to move its European headquarters from London where it has had offices for nearly 70 years.

About 600 staff are based at the bank's two City offices at Ailie Street and New Broad Street. It employs a further 900 people at its clearing and settlement centres in Bromley and Croydon. By contrast, it employs just 50 in Frankfurt.

A spokesman said it had entered preliminary discussions about taking office space at Canary Wharf, where rents are 25 per cent lower than in the City, but pulled out while they were still at an early stage.

Canary Wharf, which is reported to be considering its own flotation, has attracted a number of top financial institutions.

Occupants include Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, Credit Suisse First Boston, Barclays Capital and the Financial Services Authority. HSBC is also building new offices there.

Bitterness over BAe deal lingers

BY ADAM JONES

THE bitterness caused by British Aerospace's proposed merger with Marconi Electronic Systems showed no signs of dissipating yesterday when Dasa, the German aircraft group, accused BAe of overpaying.

It also said the all-British defence deal may damage Airbus, the pan-European civil aircraft consortium.

Announcing record sales figures for 1998, Manfred Bischoff, the president and chief executive of Dasa, said he thought BAe had "dramatically" overpaid for Marconi, which it is buying from GEC.

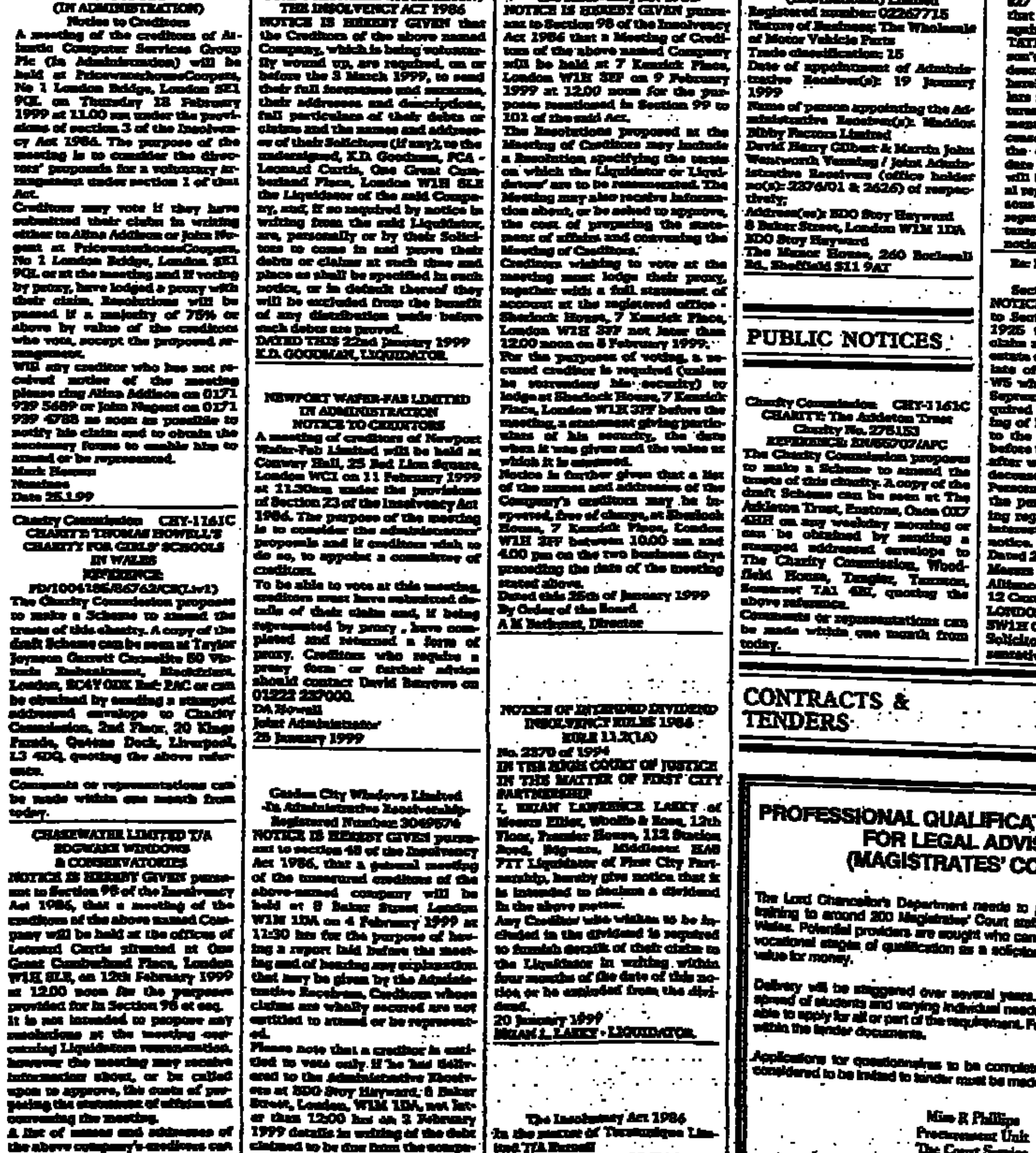
Dasa had been in talks to merge with BAe before Christmas. BAe, however, was worried about the control DaimlerChrysler, Dasa's parent, would exercise over any merged group. Dasa feared being swamped by BAe. Dr Bischoff also said he was worried that the BAe-Marconi deal "might lead to delays in the restructuring of Airbus", which is being transformed from an unwieldy consortium into a more streamlined company to try to compete more effectively with Boeing.

BAe and Dasa are partners in Airbus, alongside Aerospatiale of France and Casa of Spain. Dasa fears the French Government will be wary of ceding control of Aerospatiale because the sheer bulk of the combined BAe-Marconi will make it too dominant.

Dasa sales rose from DM15.3 billion (£5.4 billion) to DM17.2 billion on the back of a surge in Airbus sales in the cyclical airliner market. Orders rose from DM19.4 billion to DM27 billion.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES



TRUSTEE ACTS

PUBLIC NOTICES

CONTRACTS & TENDERS

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION TRAINING FOR LEGAL ADVISERS (MAGISTRATES' COURTS)

The Lord Chancellor's Department needs to provide professional legal training to around 200 Magistrates' Court staff throughout England and Wales. Potential providers are sought who can deliver the academic and vocational stages of qualification as a solicitor in a way that represents value for money.

Delivery will be staggered over several years. Due to the geographical spread of students and varying individual needs, service providers will be able to apply for all or part of the requirement. Full details will be contained within the tender documents.

Applications for questionnaires to be completed by all who wish to be considered to be invited to tender must be made in writing to:

Miss R Phillips
Procurement Unit
The Court Service
Southside
105, Victoria Street
London. SW1E 6QT.

These must be completed and returned by 19 February 1999. Any enquiries concerning this notice must be made in writing to the above.

P&D — down but not out



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

If anyone had been wondering why the chaps at Phillips & Drew were becoming a touch impatient over some of their investments, the explanation became glaringly clear yesterday. Of the 67 pooled pension funds measured by CAPS, P&D's ranked 67th in the last quarter.

If Tony Dye and his team had put their money into the FTSE 100 at the start of the year and gone on holiday, they would have come back to find it worth almost 15 per cent more. Sadly, they chose instead to hunt for value, and delivered a return of just 9.4 per cent.

Poor Mr Dye has at least been consistent in his view that equity markets are horribly overvalued, although the markets themselves have consistently failed to concur. But many of P&D's chosen stocks have done their best to cool down the indices: a trawl through its portfolio reveals a raft of underperforming companies. While P&D may have divined hidden value in these stocks, too often it has remained hidden. Now, from the bottom of the performance league, it is not surprising that the firm has decided on a more aggressive stance and if management fail to deliver the value, then P&D will.

Sears and Mirror Group have been very public examples of this pro-active stance, with P&D taking on a pivotal role in determining the future of the company. The fund manager has tired of waiting for these companies to deliver growth: it is now keen to engineer a quick, clean and premium price, exit.

Quite what it will do with the resulting cash must be a matter of some concern to the fund manager. Mr Dye's fears for equity markets have led P&D to keep almost 18 per cent of its funds in cash, against the average of just 7.2 per cent. He will have to find something more creative than that to do with the proceeds, if he succeeds in generating takeovers of more of his sickly stocks.

Chemical company Albright & Wilson may be the next to go and Evans Halshaw and Ushers of Trowbridge are already on their way. At Tay Homes, the management is having to fend off an attack from the Sunley family, which has the fingerprints of P&D all over it. Enterprise Oil, another P&D stock, is in talks with Lasmo, which could result in merger terms being agreed as early as next week.

Other fund managers cottoned on to the idea of shareholder activism long before P&D. Hermes has a special unit dedicated to stirring up under-performers and Prudential often has a stern word with lax managers. But P&D is in real fighting mood. The poor performers who helped to take it to the bottom of the league table will now pay the price.

Rock and a hard place for Chandler

Sir Colin Chandler may find himself an undeserving victim of the P&D fightback. He only took up the post of chairman of Guardian Royal Exchange four weeks ago, yet this afternoon, at GRE's board meeting, he faces a vote that could lose him his new job. Faced with a bid approach from AXA last autumn, the insurer's board took the wise decision to see if anyone else was interested in buying the company. Now, having discovered that at least three bidders — AXA, Royal & SunAlliance and the Eureko consortium — are willing to pay anything up to £3.5 billion, Sir Colin and co should do the decent thing and accept one of them. Which one is the only matter for discussion. Is Eureko's 385p a share in cash a better bet than RSA's 390p in cash and shares? Can AXA be squeezed for a little extra at the last minute? These are the only questions.

Alas, there is a complicating factor. John Robins, GRE's current chief executive, and Peter Owen, the PPP boss who fancies the job, reckon that if the board rejects all these bids, they can sell off the bits in a way that will deliver extra value for the shareholders. A figure of 420p a share has been mentioned.

The problem Sir Colin faces is that most investors, including P&D, do not want this solution. The insurance market is not a happy place at the moment. Margins are under pressure. There is global consolidation among the big players and specialist operators, like Direct Line, are undercutting aggressively in lucrative niches. GRE is not a large operator and its disastrous market performance — which saw its shares halve in value in the months before AXA's approach — indicate that it will find life tough if it stays independent.

The investors think that the executive management's suggested route is too much of a risk. Why gamble on an extra 30p a share when the downside risk is more than 100p a share? As representatives of the interests of investors, GRE's non-executives have to vote for a sale. Sir Colin Chandler may feel like a turkey voting for Christmas, but the alternative could cast him as the David Montgomery of GRE.

Euro centres battle for their futures

You have to hand it to the French. They may not be any good at attracting business to their financial markets, but when it comes to plotting and diplomacy in the rush to Europe-wide and global exchanges, they are second to none.

Eurex, the German-Swiss derivatives exchange that overtook Liffe with its first generation screen-trading system, has just suffered a big setback to global ambition. Rebel pit traders at the Chicago Board of Trade have voted down a deal to tie the two inextricably together via a costly new system. Liffe itself is eschewing mega-deals while it sorts out its own cost base. That makes the Euro Globex network stitched together by Paris and centred on France's Matif and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange suddenly look very smart.

Paris was outraged when the London Stock Exchange agreed an almost humiliating deal with Frankfurt to build an EU-wide blue-chip exchange, especially when Madrid joined in. The bourse has finally agreed a rival link with Zürich and is doubtless courting Milan to gather more ammunition. Unfortunately for the great diplomats, the whole lot could end up being run by a man and his dog on the Internet.

Victory Rice

THOSE who know Victor Rice never believed that the dissent of LucasVarity shareholders would stand in his way for long. Now, with a £4 billion offer from TRW, he is set to gain his wish of moving the company to the United States and the likelihood is that his salary package, as vice-chairman of a US business, will far outstrip the rather generous one he already enjoys. Federal-Mogul would not have to do very much to win over LucasVarity shareholders. Having no vacancy for Mr Rice would help.

Premier Farnell plans £30m reinvestment

By Paul Durman

PREMIER FARNELL, the electronic components distributor, is to invest £30 million a year over the next three years in an attempt to reinvigorate its business.

The "investment for growth" plan is the outcome of the strategic review conducted by John Hirst, the former ICI executive who took over as the group's chief executive last July. It prompted a 29p, or 18 per cent, rise in Premier Farnell's share price to 191½p.

Investors in Premier Farnell have lost more than two thirds of the value of their investment since the company was created by a controversial Anglo-American merger three years ago. However, the main catalogue distribution business has continued to make profits of about 20 per cent of sales.

Mr Hirst said: "We are reinvesting some of our margin back in the business."

The company will invest about £25 million in new computer systems to create shared customer and product databases, to allow more flexible catalogue production and more efficient purchasing. But it is also having to write off £15 million, or about half the money it spent on systems in the last couple of years. This is because Premier Farnell allowed different parts of the group to install different and incompatible systems. Mr Hirst said: "I'm not saying it's been entirely wasted. We had to get the systems in to get year 2000 compliance. But they will have a shorter working life than they would otherwise have."

Mr Hirst plans to spend £10 million a year on marketing and developing an electronic commerce capability. Until Mr Hirst's recent appointments of Michael Bell and Angela Walker, the company lacked anyone with group responsibility for information technology and marketing.

A priority is to restore growth at Newark Electronics, the US catalogue distributor that saw a 7 per cent fall in sales in the first half because of a badly handled attempt to reduce price discounting.

Mr Hirst said Newark's sales had not fallen further over the last four months. The group said overall trading was in line with expectations. Premier Farnell is expected to make pre-tax profits of about £110 million in the year just ending.

Tempus, page 32

Laroche aiming for French float

DOMAINE LAROCHE, one of France's most prestigious Chablis producers, yesterday signalled its intention to float on the French stock market this spring (Dominic Walsh writes).

The company, which has produced Chablis since 1850, accounts for 7.5 per cent of production in the Northern Burgundy region. It also has a production site in the Languedoc region, Domaine La Chevalière, which was founded three years ago to compete with New World wines.

Michel Laroche, chairman, said a listing on the Paris Bourse's Second Marché would "enable us to consolidate our position as a key player in the wine industry". He hinted that it might be be used as the springboard to acquire other vineyards.

In the year to March 1999, it is expected to post sales of Fr170 million (£18 million) and net profits of Fr4.25 million..

Misys gets boost as banks focus on service

By Chris Ayres

BANKS are finally switching their resources from fixing the millennium bomb and making themselves euro-compliant to improving customer service, Misys, the financial software company, said yesterday.

Misys, which also helps banks to offer services on the Internet, said it had seen a surge in demand for front-office software products from traditional banks. It added that demand had also been boosted by the success of newcomers to financial services such as Yahoo!, Virgin and Tesco.

Kevin Lomax, chairman, said: "There has been a big switch from Year 2000 and euro software to new customer service systems. There hasn't been much of this for two years because banks have simply been fixing old systems. In the case of companies such as Yahoo!, they haven't got any old systems."

This demand helped Misys to lift half-year pre-tax profits [illegible] per cent to £59 million, and sales 62 per cent to £288 million. Earnings per share rose 46 per cent to 7.9p. The strong results assuaged fears over Misys's move two years ago into the difficult US healthcare business, and shares in the company rose 86¼p to 584p.

However, Misys admitted a U-turn in the healthcare market, having changed its sales focus from large groups, which buy its Vision product, to smaller companies, which buy its Plus Medic product. Mr Lomax ruled out any further diversifications, and announced the sale of eight non-core businesses for £30 million.

An interim dividend of 1.21p (1.05p) is due on April 6.

CLIVE POSTLETHWAITE



James Frost, chairman of Save, the independent petrol retailer

Save to pass its final dividend

By Saeed Shah

SAVE GROUP, Britain's largest independent petrol retailer, yesterday said that it was passing payment of the final dividend. Save shares fell 14½p to 38p, against a five-year high of 269¼p in 1995.

The company, which claims 3.75 per cent of the UK market, said pre-tax profit for 1998 is likely to be £5.5 million, before exceptionals, down from £9 million the previous year. The final results are due on March 30.

The company said, however, that it is confident of a recovery in 1999.

James Frost, the chairman, said that if it were not for having to react to a 2p per litre voucher promotion from Esso, which lasted from September last year to January 15, Save would have matched 1997's £9 million profit.

"Margins just crashed in the final quarter. We had to give everything away. When you're only making 3p a litre, to give away 2p is suicidal," he said.

The company paid 3.2p as an interim dividend — and a 7.1p total last time. Foregoing a final dividend will cost Mr Frost, who holds 5 per cent of the stock, about £200,000.

He said retail prices had already risen in the last week and he expected them to rise further over the year — as the integrated companies and the supermarkets claw back the margins that were lost during the price war that kicked off with Esso's Price Watch campaign, launched in 1996.

Orchard deal brings windfall

Mark Vaughan Lee, the West Country businessman who presided over the near-collapse of Danka Business Systems, yesterday received an estimated £2.5 million windfall when his local radio company was taken over by GWR, owner of Classic FM.

The company, Orchard Radio, owns four stations in Devon, Somerset and Dorset. Mr Vaughan Lee owned about 10 per cent.

Orchard has been bought by GWR for nearly £26 million. The company made pre-tax profits of £1.2 million in 1998.

Goodhead declines

Goodhead Group, the printing company, saw pre-tax profits fall to £556,000 from £1.3 million in the six months to November 30. Goodhead attributed the fall to a £6.4 million investment associated with a contract with BT to print telephone directories. Earnings fell to 0.7p a share from 2p but the interim dividend was lifted to 0.3p a share from 0.2p. Shares were down 1p to 29½p.

Old Mutual fined

The fund management arm of Old Mutual, the South African life assurance company, has been fined for incorrect pricing of four of its unit trusts. The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation fined Old Mutual £20,000 for a breach of its rules between July 1997 and March 1998. Old Mutual fund managers have paid £62,000 compensation to the funds and private customers and will pay Imro's costs of £20,731.

Creightons loss

Creightons, the perfume and toiletries company that abandoned an agreed takeover of rival Potter & Moore because no one would lend it enough money, said yesterday that the fiasco cost £400,000. It blamed "adverse sentiment" towards small public companies for its failure to complete the £9.4 million deal three months ago. Creighton recorded a pre-tax loss of £1.35 million (£74,000 loss) for the six months to September 30. The shares fell 1p to 8p.

Barlows raises £10m

Barlows, the property group based in the North West, said yesterday that over the past three months it has sold 17 properties for a net consideration in excess of £10 million. The sales are in line with its intention to reduce borrowings, and, after completion of the sales, gearing will stand at about 75 per cent of net assets. The shares rose 2p to 47p.

Pension funds' poor show

By Robert Cole, City Correspondent

NONE of the so-called big four independent pension fund investment managers has produced above-average returns in their mixed asset portfolios in the past one, three and five-year periods, new research has shown (see Commentary, this page).

Gartmore, Mercury Asset Management, Phillips & Drew and Schroders all fall behind the median performance in the Combined Actuarial Performance Services 1998 survey. Gartmore, Phillips & Drew and Schroders sit in the bottom quartile. However, Morgan Grenfell, another leading manager of independently mandated pension fund money, recorded returns placing it in the upper quartile over one and five years, and was above the median for three years.

P&D has attracted much attention for its view that shares have become increasingly overvalued and for its strategy of keeping large proportions of its funds in cash. The CAPS survey shows that P&D invested 17 per cent in cash compared with an average of 7 per cent, and had only 44 per cent in UK equities compared with 54 per cent for the average.

Gartmore, Mercury and Schroders have more typical asset allocation policies for UK equities and cash but have still underperformed. Shallow investment in US equities by all four groups appears to have harmed their records.

STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Focus on second-liners as FTSE gives up lead

CITY investors have stopped ploughing their money into blue chips, for the time being at least.

Instead they are on the lookout for value and have begun turning their attention to the second-liners. For the second day in a row the FTSE 250 index easily outperformed the top 100 companies, finishing 55.6 up at 4,958.9.

By contrast, a late futures-related sell-off saw the FTSE 100 index give up a lead of 83.4 to finish 3.9 down on the day at 5,872.5 despite the positive start to trading on Wall Street. Total turnover reached 1.3 billion shares.

Sentiment generally remains underpinned by the steady stream of corporate deals and the weight of money finding its way into the marketplace.

Yesterday it was the turn of **LucasVarity**, up 7p to 290½p, after receiving an offer of 288p a share from TRW. If the bid succeeds, a further £4 billion of cash will find its way back into the market. News of the deal provided a further boost to the rest of the vehicle engineering sector. **Laird Group**, the subject of intense speculative buying this week, firmed another 3½p to 202½p with the speculators talking of an imminent bid from Fullarton of the US. **Henlys** was another fast mover, adding 44p at 472½p in a thin market, while gains were also seen in **Bostrom**, 14p to 157½p, and **Britax International**, 7½p to 118p.

Bass was the best performer among the top 100 with a rise of 52½p to 851½p ahead of next week's annual general meeting. Dealers said stock shortages have put the bears under pressure. They sold the stock lower in the wake of recent profit warnings from rivals **Whitbread**, up 16p at 850p, and **Allied Domecq**, 5p better at 475½p.

P&O, up 28p at 636½p, took encouragement from some positive comments from SG Securities, the broker, while **Kingfisher** rose a further 21p to 649p in response to this week's upbeat trading statement.

HSBC Securities, the broker, is taking a bearish line on the mortgage lenders. It was enough to undermine **Abbey National**, down 53p at £12.02, **Alliance & Leicester**, 30½p at 756½p, **Halifax**, 32p at 722½p, **Northern Rock**, 9½p at 488p, and **Woolwich**, 7½p at 326½p.

Christian Salvesen moved off the bottom with a rise of 5p to 82½p with some large lines of stock going through on the ticker. This included a a buyer of 318,900 shares at 77½p. Other buyers gave 82p for 250,000 shares and 83p for 300,000.

Systems Integrated continued to draw strength from Tuesday's interim results with the price adding a further 9½p to 28½p. The strength of the share price has been such that the group was forced to admit on Wednesday that it knew of no reason for the movement.

Cornwell Parker, up 21½p at 87½p, is in talks that could lead to a bid. Phillips & Drew, the broker, holds a 13 per cent stake.

Recent weakness in its share price has made **Morgan Crucible** more attractive to investors. The price rose 14p to 202½p as Merrill Lynch, the broker, upgraded its recommendation from "accumulate" to "buy". The shares have dropped from a peak of 274p in the past fortnight in the wake of a profits warning. Merrill says the shares have fallen far enough and says a "substantial" share buyback appears to be on the cards. The company is also vulnerable to a bid approach.

Merrill Lynch is also taking an increasingly bullish view of **United News & Media**, up 23½p at 547p, where it is urging clients to "accumulate". It says United, which is led by Lord Hollick, has been left behind by the rest of the media sector.



Lord Hollick saw United News & Media shares advance as Merrill Lynch, the broker, urged clients to accumulate

Bowthorpe, up 14p at 361½p, was cheered by the news that the company has appointed Salomon Smith Barney, the US securities house, as its broker. It intends to seek a level one American Depository Receipt facility for its shares in New York.

A move into the black by **Laser-Scan** has meant that the group has been trading profitably during the second half of the year. The company is dependent on low volume, high value business which can be unpredictable. The shares rose 3p to 15p.

News of a bumper contract over several years with British Telecom turned out to be good news for **Skillsgroup**, up 19p at 214½p. The group will supply professional and information and technology training.

Majedie Investments shaded 1½p to 345p after it emerged that Mark Barlow, a director, had sold 200,000 shares at 346½p. It reduces his holding to 2.76 million, or 5.26 per cent.

Shares of AIM-listed **Floral Street** were suspended at 32½p pending clarification of the company's financial position.

☐ GILT-EDGED: Investors experienced another lacklustre trading session with prices staging a late rally to close above their lows of the day. Dealers said the absence of any fresh economic news had left the market side railed.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt finished 8p lower at £120.03 as a total of 24,000 contracts were completed. In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 lost 12p at £152.88, while in shorts Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 1p cheaper at £107.83.

☐ NEW YORK: Shares stayed near their highs in late morning trade, responding positively to merger news. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 80.84 at 9,281.07.

FINDING A SOLUTION

PHILLIPS & DREW, the broker, is becoming one of the most prolific dealmakers in the City.

Talk in the Square Mile claims it has agreed a management buyout of Albright & Wilson, where it has a 22.5 per cent stake, of about 110p a share. The shares responded with a rise of 10½p to 76½p on turnover of 2.35 million shares.

In the past few weeks P&D has helped to broker a deal between Sears and Philip Green and thrown its backing behind Trinity International's attempts to win control of the Mirror Group.

Elsewhere in the chemical sector, speculative buying hoisted Croda International 18½p to 217½p, Laporte 6½p to 519p, Yule Catto 14p to 254p and Brent International 7½p to 112½p.

But ICI finished 24½p down at 525p after Wednesday's mark-up. Traders are taking positions ahead of next week's results. There are fears the dividend may be cut following the latest profits setback.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	9281.07 (+80.84)
S&P Composite	1261.64 (+18.47)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	14342.32 (−107.74)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9360.96 (−356.70)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	538.98 (+7.38)
Sydney:	
AO	2877.2 (+25.82)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	5096.41 (+35.23)
Singapore:	
Strait	1426.02 (−31.42)
Brussels:	
BEL20	3405.91 (+42.39)
Paris:	
CAC-40	4199.67 (+101.57)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1450.90 (+16.30)
London:	
FT 30	3505.7 (+7.3)
FTSE 100	5872.5 (−3.9)
FTSE 250	4958.9 (+55.6)
FTSE 350	2777.3 (+3.2)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2770.22 (+41.03)
FTSE All-Share	2681.14 (+3.72)
FTSE Non Financials	2761.70 (+11.34)
FTSE Fixed Interest	158.29 (−0.01)
FTSE Govt Secs	116.86 (−0.07)
Bargains	73559
SEAQ Volume	1320.1m
US$	1.6477 (−0.0045)
Euro	0.6929 (−0.0034)
£:SDR	1.1826
Exchange Index	100.6 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
RPI	164.4 Dec (2.8%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIX	162.4 Dec (2.6%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

AIM VCT	100	...
Abbey Natl Dublin Inv	89	...
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Cap	97½	...
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Inc	118½	...
Close Bros Dev VCT	100	+ 10
Five Arrws Uts Cv Ln 2040	106	+ ¾
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	108	...
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	98	+ ¾
Singer & Frd AIM VCT	100	...
Virtual Internet	245	− 20
Yeoman II Equity Units	100	...
Yeoman II Inv Tst Cap	5¼	− ¼
Yeoman II Inv Tst Inc	96¼	...
Yeoman II Zero Div Pf	116¼	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Norcros	84½	+ 20½	+ 32.0
Wace	75½	+ 17½	+ 30.1
AIM	135	+ 25	+ 22.7
Barbour Index	327½	+ 60	+ 22.4
Premier Farnell	191½	+ 29	+ 17.8
Misys	586	+ 86¼	+ 17.2
Albright & Wil	76½	+ 10½	+ 15.9
Caird Gp	207½	+ 21	+ 11.2
Sappi	228¼	+ 22½	+ 10.9
Henlys	472½	+ 44	+ 10.2
Skillsgroup	214½	+ 19½	+ 10.0
Bostrom	157½	+ 14	+ 9.7
Andrews Sykes	145	+ 12½	+ 9.4
Sanderson	152	+ 13	+ 9.3
Croda	217½	+ 18½	+ 9.2
Ericsson B	1671½	+134¾	+ 8.7
Berkeley Gp	427½	+ 32½	+ 8.2
Flying Flw Uts	198½	+ 15	+ 8.1
Electrocompnts	375	+ 28	+ 8.0
Morgan Cble	202½	+ 14	+ 7.4
CMG	1840	+125	+ 7.2
JJB Sports	310	+ 20	+ 6.8
Lavendon	257	+ 16	+ 6.6
Bass†	851½	+ 52½	+ 6.5

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Save Group	38	− 14½	− 27.6
Dragon Oil	20½	− 7½	− 26.7
Ashton	22¾	− 5½	− 19.4
Cityview	24¾	− 5½	− 18.1
SOCO Intl	31½	− 7	− 18.1
Kenmare Res	7¼	− 1¼	− 14.7
Flare	9	− 1½	− 14.2
IWP Intl	137½	− 17½	− 11.2
Creighton	8	− 1	− 11.1
FII Group	30	− 3½	− 10.4
Arcon Intl	13	− 1½	− 10.3
Drummond Group	9	− 1	− 10.0
Medisys	19½	− 2	− 9.3
Cortecs	23	− 2¼	− 8.9
Intelligent Env	92½	− 9	− 8.8
El Data Prc	67½	− 6	− 8.1

TEMPUS

No Mickey take

MISYS, the IT company that produces software systems for banks, insurance companies and US healthcare groups, bounced in and out of the FTSE 100 as opinion swung first with the firm, and latterly against it.

Recent worries were that it would make a hash of its move into the US; that it would be hit hard once Year 2000 and euro conversion demand worked through; and that banks were delaying investment in software until after the millennium to bypass expensive Y2K compliance tests. The rather unkind "Mickey Misys" nickname had begun to stick.

All the evidence from yesterday suggests that the fears are largely unfounded. Misys has shown there is a healthy market for its retail or "front-of-house" software products, especially among upstart financial services players such as Virgin and Tesco. This, in turn, has stimulated demand from the more traditional players and led to the dilution of worries about the US healthcare activities. Half-year profits were up 83 per cent and the fizz was quite definitely back in the share price.

Caution is still advised. The company has effected a big strategic U-turn in switching its sales focus from large to small players. The failure ability to produce like-for-like sales figures for the healthcare division also saps confidence.

Overall, however, future prospects look good. Organic growth is tangible and investors can expect acquisitions too, given the company's ability to generate enormous amounts of cash. Misys burnt off £100 million of debt last year alone. The shares closed 86p higher yesterday at 584p; they trade on a forward p/e multiple of about 35 — relatively cheap for a quality IT company. Buy.

Bryant Group

BRYANT'S reassuring news on the state of the housing market and on housebuilders, led a welcome rally in the price of its shares yesterday. Bryant stock rose 6 per cent to 88p yesterday. Berkeley did even better, advancing more than 8 per cent to 427½p. Others also perked up.

Not before time. Housebuilding stocks have been well and truly hammered in the past year as fears spread about the ability of these residential property companies to withstand the economic slowdown. The recession of the early 1980s certainly hit hard and those bad memories have lived long enough to send housebuilding shares to low single figure pe multiples.

On the evidence of Bryant's figures, the fears about housebuilding shares are overdone, big time. The economic slowdown does not look to be nearly so painful as in the early 1990s. The builders' balance sheets are not nearly as stretched. Interest rates and the ratio of house prices to average earnings are also favourable. Most crucially, the disintegration of the family unit is driving a huge increase in demand for dwellings in this country. As a nation we are becoming more independent — either through divorce, or through the desire to live away from parents.

Planning constraints may mean that builders cannot grow as fast as they would like. But that doubt does not merit the pitiful earnings multiples of 5, 6 and 7 times. Buy Bryant, and buy the sector.

BUILDING RENEWED CONFIDENCE

Premier Farnell

THE 18 per cent rise in Premier Farnell's share price yesterday looks an over-excited response to the company's plan to "invest for growth". If spending money was all it took to create wealth for his shareholders, John Hirst, the new chief executive, would have an easy job.

Admittedly, the shares were looking oversold on less than six times the earnings forecast for the year just ending. However, the electronics distributor has made a comprehensive hash of just about everything over the past couple of years, and its markets still do not look encouraging.

It beggars belief that a large and newly merged company spent £30 million on new computer systems without making sure that the different parts were compatible. A big chunk of Mr Hirst's investment will go on sorting out this mess. The result should be that Premier Farnell will be able to produce catalogues with more attractive product offerings. An increased emphasis on marketing, sales training and key customers should also help.

Mr Hirst is a reassuring presence but his company still has much to prove. In particular, it sounds as if Newark Electronics in the US may have some deep-seated problems, and it will not be helped by a slowing American economy. The shares rate an unenthusiastic hold.

Portsmouth & Sunderland

IT IS decision day for holders of shares in Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers, the publisher and convenience store retailer. The tender offer of up to 10 per cent of the P&S shares from Johnston Press closes tomorrow.

On the face of it, the tender looks to be one for mugs. At £16.87½p the current market price is higher than the tender price. Moreover, Johnston bought 14.99 per cent of P&S last week and seems to be gearing up for a full-scale bid. It might be forced to pay more than £16, certainly if an auction breaks out with other regional media groups.

But there are some big buts. P&S shares trade in an exceedingly tight market. The current price is set in reference to minimal trading and could be misleadingly high. A big trade would send the price down sharply. Also, there are no confirmed reports of rival bid interest and at 17 time earnings, the £16 also looks a decent price.

Most pertinently, however, Johnston's existing stake means it is already set for a monopolies investigation which will hold up a bid proper for months, and may block it. Shareholders may get more than £16 if a bid comes. But hedge by tendering for at least part of your holding.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFFE COCOA

Mar	898-896	May	1016 BID
May	913-912	Jul	1027 BID
Jul	933-931	Sep	1043 SLR
Sep	953-951	Dec	1067 SLR
Dec	975-975		
Mar	1095 SLR	Volume	12796

ROBUSTA COFFEE [illegible]

WHITE SUGAR (FOB) [illegible]

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION [illegible]

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm) CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	10.90	n/c
Brent 15 day (Mar)	10.90	+0.10
Brent 15 day (Apr)	11.00	+0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	12.35	+0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	12.40	n/c

PRODUCTS ($/MT) [illegible]

IPE FUTURES (GMI Ltd) GAS OIL [illegible]

BRENT (6.00pm) [illegible]

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	76.10	Mar	80.50
May	77.25	May	81.50
Jul	79.00	Sep	78.25
Sep	78.10	Nov	80.25
Nov	79.85	Jan	82.25
		Volume	30

LIFFE POTATO (£/t) [illegible]

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif £/t) [illegible]

LIFFE BIFFEX (GMI Ltd $10/pt) [illegible]

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) — Rudolf Wolff [illegible]

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 99	120.20	120.25	119.77	120.03	27423
Previous open interest 104160	Jun 99				120.78	0
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Mar 99				117.65	0
Previous open interest 0						
Five Year Gilt	Mar 99				109.21	0
Previous open interest [illegible]	Jun 99				[illegible]	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Mar 99	115.50	115.55	115.31	115.41	10552
Previous open interest [illegible]						
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 99	123.75	129.81	123.30	129.47	2532
	Jun 99	128.54	128.55	125.54	[illegible]	110
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 99	94.420	94.420	94.370	94.390	23263
	Jun 99	94.740	94.750	94.720	94.735	27419
Previous open interest [illegible]	Sep 99	94.930	94.930	94.900	94.920	21391
Three Mth Euromark	N/A					
Previous open interest 0						
Three Mth Eurolira	N/A					
Previous open interest 0						
Three Mth Euroswiss	Mar 99	98.620	98.650	98.590	98.610	16527
Previous open interest [illegible]	Jun 99	98.510	98.540	98.490	98.510	5792
Three Mth Euro	Apr 99				97.045	3
Previous open interest [illegible]	Jun 99	97.165	97.175	97.145	97.165	6545
FTSE 100	Mar 99	5885.0	5972.0	[illegible]	[illegible]	27124
Previous open interest [illegible]	Jun 99	5995.0	6000.0	[illegible]	[illegible]	60

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance House 7

Discount Market Loans: O'night high: 6¼ Low 5½ Week fixed: 5¾

Treasury Bills (Dis): [illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open [illegible] close 5					
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	4.59	n/a	4.92	4.98	5.05
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Canada:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: [illegible] **Close:** [illegible] **High:** [illegible] **Low:** [illegible] **AM:** [illegible] **PM:** [illegible]

Krugerrand: [illegible]

Platinum: [illegible] **Silver:** [illegible] **Palladium:** [illegible]

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for January 28	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	10.727-10.753	10.727-10.740	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro	1.4422-1.4442	1.4424-1.4439	0.14-0.16ds	0.45-0.48ds
Montreal	2.5133-2.5194	2.5133-2.5161	0.19-0.12pr	0.48-0.34pr
New York	1.6474-1.6492	1.6474-1.6482	0.135-0.122pr	0.326-0.297pr
Oslo	12.339-12.371	12.339-12.361	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	12.763-12.810	12.769-12.791	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	191.34-191.65	191.42-191.60	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	2.3240-2.3295	2.3240-2.3269	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel Premium = pr Discount = ds

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5974-1.6000
Canada	1.5258-1.5268
Denmark	6.5248-6.5268
Euro	1.1393-1.1397
Hong Kong	7.7488-7.7493
Japan	116.20-116.25
Malaysia	3.7998-3.8003
Norway	7.5035-7.5135
Singapore	1.6900-1.6920
Sweden	7.7645-7.7695
Switzerland	1.4139-1.4149

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6472-1.6495
Australia dollar	2.6316-2.6373
Bahrain dinar	0.6135-0.6277
Brazil real*	1.9871-1.9896
Cyprus pound	0.8230-0.8418
Euro	1.4443-1.4465
Finland markka	8.4750-8.6144
Greece drachma	457.25-467.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.7646-12.7724
India rupee	69.18-70.78
Indonesia rupiah	14933.00-15533.00
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4925-0.5039
Malaysia ringgit	6.2594-6.2637
New Zealand dollar	3.0814-3.0888
Pakistan rupee	80.45 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9250-6.0824
Singapore dollar	2.7839-2.7888
S Africa rand (com)	9.8640-10.0828
U A E dirham	5.9775-6.1161

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	959	Legal & Gn	3,279
ASDA Gp	26,395	Lloyds TSB	12,173
Abbey Ntl	4,928	LucasVarity	47,270
Allnce & Leic	2,806	Marks Spr	9,376
Allied Dom	4,674	Nat Grid	3,074
Allied Zurich	3,605	Nat Power	7,998
Anglian [illegible]	2,244	NatWst Bk	3,718
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

WALL STREET

	Jan 28 midday	Jan 27 close
AEP	[illegible]	44½
AMP Inc	52	51½
AMR Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
AT & T	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

A good case for cancelling the Budget

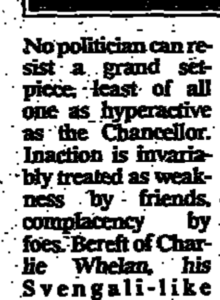
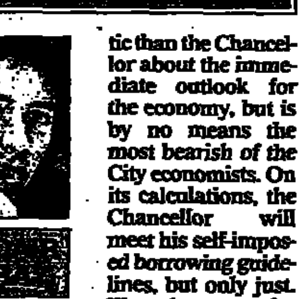
Alastair Ross Goobey, the chief executive of Hermes Pensions Management who is writing elsewhere on this page, is fond of explaining how, as a special adviser to Nigel Lawson, he offered some peerless advice ahead of the 1987 Budget. Stand up, take a sip of your drink and sit down again, Mr Ross Goobey recommended. Leave the economy to take care of itself for a year.

Of course, Mr Lawson (now Lord Lawson of Blaby) ignored these words, embarking instead on a tax-cutting spree with disastrous consequences for the medium-term health of the economy and public finances.

As 1999 Budget day approaches, Gordon Brown could do worse than to heed the same advice. The economy is at one of those delicate moments, where even the most confident economist is uncertain about the immediate outlook. Growth is slowing, but how far and how fast is anyone's guess. Launching significant new initiatives against this background could have as unforeseen and counter-productive consequences as the Lawson tax cuts.

Cancelling the Budget would also be just about the best help that the Government could provide for business. Companies already have plenty to contend with. There are euro and millennium bug contingency plans to prepare. The Government's raft of new workplace legislation needs to be absorbed. Above all, businesses face the tricky task of developing their own response to the downturn. The last thing needed at this juncture is a crop of well-intentioned but complex changes to the tax system.

Sadly, Mr Brown is not going to get up and do nothing.

No politician can resist a grand set-piece, least of all one as hyperactive as the Chancellor. Inaction is invariably treated as weakness by friends, complacency by foes. Bereft of Charlie Whelan, his Svengali-like spokesman, Mr Brown will want to show he can still pack a political punch. He is also desperate to give his party, still mired in the post-Mandelson gloom, something to cheer at last.

However, as David Walton, the Goldman Sachs economist, charted earlier this week, the Chancellor has limited room for manoeuvre. Goldman is slightly more pessimistic than the Chancellor about the immediate outlook for the economy, but is by no means the most bearish of the City economists. On its calculations, the Chancellor will meet his self-imposed borrowing guidelines, but only just. There is no case for a "giveaway" Budget, which would risk a considerable deterioration in the health of the public finances. At the same time, there is no need for emergency tightening measures, which risk exaggerating the downturn as well as causing political fallout.

So what will Mr Brown do? The obvious temptation will be finally to unveil the new 10p tax rate, but he will have to find tax rises elsewhere to fund the new band. The last remnant of mortgage interest tax relief is the obvious target, but the Prime Minister may well veto the abolition of this vestige of middle class privilege.

The alternative is to replace the existing 20p tax band with the new 10p rate. This has the virtue of maintaining simplicity but, as the Institute of Fiscal Studies calculates, the Chancellor would be able to apply the new rate to only the first £880 of taxable income if fiscal neutrality is to be maintained. Hardly the kind of reform to set the country alight.

Productivity measures will also loom large. Yet it is far from clear exactly where Britain's productivity problems reside. The debate over the past year has, if anything, confused matters, and, for every expert who agrees with the Chancellor that the UK lags America, there is one ready to argue that the country's performance is not nearly as poor as imagined. There is a strong argument that the problem can only be resolved by non-budgetary measures such as competition, product regulation and planning law reforms.

The Chancellor is inclined to tamper yet again with R&D tax credits and capital allowances in the hope of improving investment performance. The IFS, however, argues that these reforms will benefit no one except the accountancy industry.

No matter how grandly such reform is dressed up on Budget day, it is unlikely to amount to anything more than tinkering at the edges. But what the country really needs at this moment, is a new Charlie Whelan to explain how the Chancellor cancelled this year's Budget, not through indecision but "masterly inactivity".

Institutional investors must play part in wealth creation

Shareholder activism was back in the news when David Montgomery was ousted as chief executive of Mirror Group this week. ALASTAIR ROSS GOOBEY runs one of the fund managers behind the move. He explains why investors must play a more active part in the companies that they own.

The subject of corporate governance is moving on again. I hope we may be approaching a time where investors may be felt to be assisting in wealth creation, rather than merely policing their agents. I believe there is a near-universal acceptance that it is in the power of the investing institutions to fill such a role; the question is how, and in what areas?

Just over five years ago, Sir Martin Jacomb (who was then my chairman and is now chairman of Prudential) and I decided that we should write to the chairmen of the FTSE 100 constituent companies about long rolling contracts for executives. These seemed to us to be the instruments through which failing executives were given large payments to leave the companies they had already harmed.

In 1994, according to research by HayGroup into the top 500 companies, 58 per cent of chief executives had such contracts, and 47 per cent of other executive directors. The 1998 figures suggest that only 2 per cent of chief executives now have these contracts, and there are no other executive directors with them. The three-year contract is no more. Indeed, the Greenbury committee came out in favour of one-year contracts, although there is a fairly even split between one and two years in the universe researched by HayGroup.

Although, of course, I am drawing attention to these results with some personal satisfaction, my point is more general. If one institution, owning between 1 and 2 per cent of the UK equity market, acting on its own initiative, can achieve this change, what may we all achieve if we work together?

In 1993 there were several of our peers who thought ours was a futile gesture. Even if they believed in the purpose, they could see no point in upsetting their clients in pursuit of an unattainable goal. Very few institutions joined, privately or publicly, in pushing for changes in contracts. Yet, because they were indefensible, and because there was enough adverse comment from shareholders to make the subject awkward, the worm turned.



Monty's last stand: pressure from institutional investors, headed by Phillips & Drew, led to the resignation of David Montgomery

The Government sees the institutional fund managers, or their clients, as the drivers of change in UK industry. They want us all to vote our shares, and to act responsibly as representatives of the ultimate owners. While I have no quarrel with this as a starting point, I am beginning to worry about the specific instruction that the Government seems to be tempted to give us as to how to vote or act, as they see it, responsibly.

Let me give two examples. John Denham, the now ex-Pensions Minister, has, in his recently published consultation document, drafted a regulation for the inclusion of a policy on ethics in a pension fund's statutory statement of investment principles. The draft is couched in general terms: "The statement must cover whether the trustees take into account any considerations other than financial considerations, and, if so, what these are and how investment decisions are affected."

The first part should present little difficulty to most scheme trustees. All trustees must be in favour of the companies in which they invest being run in their long-term interests, which short-term unethical behaviour will undermine.

If, however, trustees are being invited to take positions on arms manufacturers, tobacco companies or the other political pariahs, we may be forced into the absurd position of one ethical investor many years ago. When asked why it had only half its normal-sized investment in ICI, the response was "we are not investing in the explosives division".

It is well nigh impossible to draw a precise line between the ethical and the politically correct. Our view is that the next natural development of responsible stewardship is to push more actively for change in underperforming companies. Far too often, the institutions intervene when vast amounts of shareholder value have already been poured away. Our focus funds in the UK and US, and our alliance with CalPers are intended to give more force to that initiative. After all, if not the investing institutions, who?

The second example of government exhortation is the drive to persuade investors to pour money into early stage and development capital in the UK. The fact is that the track record of such investment in the past ten years is very poor.

The returns achieved have, according to the British Venture Capital Association's (BVCA) own statements, been less than conventional UK or overseas equities, or even bonds. The BVCA brings no credit to itself by quoting overall figures for private equity returns that are dominated by MBO funds, where financial leverage and a bull market in equities has convinced the managers of their own genius. These numbers have nothing at all to do with high-tech start-ups. The private equity fund managers are, naturally, supporting the perceived need; they will see the value of their own businesses escalate rapidly if they capture some of these investment flows.

It is not that I think early-stage and development capital investment is anathema to our clients. We have demonstrated many times that we are prepared to back specific technology in companies we understand, but most of these developments have taken place within relatively mature companies with at least a notional quote. At the cutting edge of technology, in a single project company, we are unable to do effective due diligence into the technology; we do not have those specific skills, and nor do most institutional investors. Even most of the private equity fund managers claim that their great contribution is to add proper financial and management skills to a wonderful technology.

In my experience, a financial investor gains much more comfort from investing alongside a company that has direct knowledge of the relevant technology. The Wellcome Trust is the largest funding institution for medical research in the UK; would we be more likely to invest in a biotech investment as a partner with Wellcome than either by ourselves or via a private equity specialist? Absolutely.

It is the vehicle through which we make such investments that will determine our strategy in this area, not the jawboning of government. As fiduciaries, we have a responsibility to invest wisely for our clients. We cannot respond eagerly to promoters who effectively ask us to "open your wallets and say after me 'help yourself'".

Partnerships with companies that want to take an exciting, but high-risk, new technology out of their direct profit and loss account; investing together with informed trade investors; investing with fund managers whose fee structure does not insulate them from the pain of failure, instead of, as now, exposing them only to the pleasure of success; these are what we will seek.

It is a little rich for a Government that has taken more than £100 million a year from our clients alone by removing tax credits, to ask us to tie up more of their money for longer periods at higher risk. If we had the cashflow that has been taken from us, we would be in a much better position to help.

□ *Alastair Ross Goobey is chief executive of Hermes Pensions Management.*

William Ford aims to show he's in the driving seat

Oliver August reports on the car group's deal to buy Volvo and the background to the purchase

Many chairmen have told a rapt audience at annual meetings that their company is what they hold dearest in all the world. But when William Clay Ford Jr says so, he actually sounds genuine.

The chairman of The Ford Motor Company, which yesterday bought Volvo's car division, has jockeyed all his life to reach the top post. At the age of 41, the great-grandson of Henry Ford, the group's founder, finally assumed the mantle of power at the family carmaking firm last year.

The Volvo deal is his first big move. William Ford got his chance when Alex Trotman, the British-born executive chairman, retired. Mr Trotman, 65, had been expected to stay a further year but said he chose to go early as the revamping of Ford had proceeded ahead of schedule.

This amounted to a huge victory for William Ford. He had been head of the company finance committee and played a leading role in the turnround. However, as chairman he has to share power with Jac Nasser, the wily Australian who was made chief executive. The Volvo deal is as much his as William Ford's.

The new division of power at the car group reflects the continued influence of the Ford family that holds 40 per cent of the voting shares. The family has long been the royalty of Detroit, and the subject of intense local interest.

William Ford was groomed as a successor at the behest of the family. He is the first family member to lead the company since Henry Ford II bowed out in 1980 after 35 years at the wheel. Henry Ford I was in charge for only ten years from 1908 until 1918.

Mr Trotman said: "Over these past several months, the board has discussed succession following my retirement and has concluded that the roles of the chairman and of the chief executive officer should be separated. Jac is already running the largest part of the company and, with Bill as chairman of the board, we have tremendous strength and continuity as we move forward." William Ford is described as a serious, soft-spoken executive who helped to create a school for gifted children near Ford headquarters. This is in marked contrast to more tempestuous relatives who have had his job. Unlike his great-grandfather, he is unlikely ever to mutter: "You can have your car any colour you like as long as it's black."

The new chairman has held a variety of jobs at the company, including managing director of Ford Switzerland, vice-president of the commercial truck centre and head of the climate control division. He divides his spare time between reading about the American Civil War and American football.

His father, William Ford Sr, owns the Detroit Lions team. He has made his son vice-chairman — a move that will endear him to the tens of thousands of car workers employed at Ford. But it wasn't always clear that William Ford would be chosen by family elders to run the car business.

He had an ambitious rival in Edsel Ford Jr, another grandson of Henry Ford. The 49-year-old is also the son of Henry Ford II, who rebuilt the company after the Second World War. But early last year Edsel Ford decided to step down from his post as president of Ford's car lending division and said he would not take another executive position. Since 1991 he had been the president of the Ford Motor Credit Company, which is the world's largest provider of car loans and leases and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ford Motor. While Ford Credit thrived during the early years of Mr Ford's management, it ran into problems in the past two years.

But given the 40 per cent voting stake of the family, it is unlikely that he was forced out. The real reason for his departure is believed to be his realisation that William Ford had gained a comfortable lead in the race to the top.

Six months later Alex Trotman resigned and set the reshuffle in motion. At the time, William Ford said: "I want to serve this company to the very best of my ability. The Ford Motor Company is my heritage, and has always been part of my life." The standing ovation at the next annual meeting is guaranteed.

William Ford is keenly aware of the family heritage

Smoke screen



HERE is the paradox: you are an insurance firm that must, for commercial reasons, charge smokers more for life insurance because the statistics show that cigarettes shorten their lives. But you are owned by a company that makes fags and insists, against all the evidence, that smoking is a harmless pleasure.

I had wondered how the former insurance arm of BAT Industries, our biggest maker of coffin nails, squared this particular circle. Now Phil Hodkinson, chief executive at Allied Dunbar has let me in on the following jesuitical explanation.

Cigarettes do not harm one's health, so the spin goes. But the statistics show that smokers tend to die earlier of other causes — anything from car accidents to being murdered. If so, they must be charged higher insurance premiums.

Ingenious, is it not? And also true — smokers are statistically more likely to die early of other causes than non-smokers.

The reason, in case you had not guessed, is that they tend to come from lower down the social scale and/or to be on low incomes. Such people are, statistically, more likely to succumb to various causes of death than those further up the social ladder. Amazing what you can prove with statistics.



"Miss Jones, ask the chairman to bring me through a coffee"

MOST brutal mugging of the English language this week is by Havas, the French advertising sales agency, with the following: "The international realignment of several Procter & Gamble brands handled until now by EURO RSGC Worldwide affects essentially those accounts handled on the North American market by EURO RSGC Tatham but in no way does it affect accounts held by Jordan McGrath Case & Partners EURO RSGC nor Lally McFarland & Pantello EURO RSGC."

They really do talk like this, these marketing idiots. Does anyone have the faintest idea what they are trying to say?

Swiss role

ADAIR TURNER'S powers of persuasion were stretched beyond breaking point on the tarmac at Heathrow Airport yesterday. The CBI Director-General was one of a party heading off to Zurich and thence to the Davos World Economic Forum when news came through that the airport there had been closed.

Unfortunately the aircraft was owned by SwissAir, a carrier not noted for its charm and kindness towards paying customers, so the crew refused to let passengers off the flight. After a tiresome two-hour wait Turner was seconded to go forward to try to persuade them to let everyone return to the terminal. He did his best, and reported back: "I think the negotiations are coming to a conclusion."

To which the humourless stewardess responded: "Is that an example of your British sarcasm?"

AS YOU will have noticed, Lucozade has been given the product makeover with the help of sportsmen such as Daley Thompson and Alan Shearer. Now this winter's flu has meant a 25 per cent jump in sales.

Peter Harding at SmithKline Beecham admits this is not quite what the marketing geniuses had in mind. "We have been repositioning Lucozade from primarily a convalescence drink to primarily an energy drink," he babbles. "But if we sell more product, we're not disappointed."

French leave

GREAT puzzlement in Paris about a flying visit by David Komansky, the Master of the Universe who is chairman and chief executive of Merrill Lynch. Komansky requested an interview with Jacques Chirac, French President and a man not terribly interested in the minutiae of international finance, everyone assumes.

The meeting was slated for half and hour and went on for twice that. Komansky left hatchet-faced and refused to say a thing. The Elysée put out some hogwash about how they discussed the regulation of world financial markets which no one could make much sense of.

But my man in Paris points out that Chirac is best friends with Boris Yeltsin, at least when the Russian premier can remember who anyone is. His support would be essential for EU backing for any bailout being put together by Wall Street. We shall see.

MARTIN WALLER

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David Komansky's brief Paris trip left most observers in the dark

Late sell-off for equities

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
646	365	Allied Domecq	475½	+ 5	5.3	12.4
412½	299	Bulmer (HP)*	289		6.5	12.9
42½	7	Burn Stewart	14½	...	...	...
795	432	Diageo	637	+ 7	3.1	19.3
700	665	Glenmorangie A	670		2.7	18.2
325	225	Highland Dist	252½	- 1	4.5	11.5
244	115	Matthew Clark	242	..	6.7	8.2
59½	18	Morrison W	28½			
2021	725	SA Breweries	943	- 3½	3.9	13.9

BANKS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1618½	923½	ABN-AMRO	1200	+ 12½	3.3	14.4
1390	862	Abbey Nat	1202	- 53	3.4	17.2
1022	585	Alliance & Leic	756½	- 30½	3.7	14.3
1235	587½	Allied Irish	1183½	- 11½	1.6	33.0
456½	293½	Aus New Z	397½	+ 4½	5.0	.
6075	3237½	Bank America	3862½	- 40½		
927	431	Bank Scotland	754	+ 5½	1.7	18.9
1596	827	Barclays	1299	- 14	3.8	11.9
1487½	882½	Bk of Ireland	1390	- 14	2.0	22.8
2424½	1565½	Commerzbank	1799½	- 6½	3.1	
[illegible]						

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
122	36	European Mtr	66½	.	11.5	8.2
305	143	Evans Halshaw	257½		8.3	8.2
87½	33½	Fife Group	66		7.2	7.2
400½	85½	Firstbus? Grp	140	.	7.8	5.3
82½	51½	Glencowan	51½	...	5.3	6.5
135½	88½	Gowrings	96	.	4.8	8.4
30½	12½	HR Owen	13½	+ ¼	8.3	7.2
405	187	Heywood?	300	+ 7½	3.1	14.5
160	100	Holders Tech	100	- ½	8.4	5.5
120	30	ISA Intl	46½	.	8.8	6.5
250	85	Inchcape	135½	+ ½	8.9	15.6
80	55	Jacks (Wm)	65	.	7.7	4.0
583½	251½	Kwik-Fit	421½	- 1	2.0	17.0
674	329	Lex Service	371	- 1	6.2	8.7
123	82	Lookers	86½		10.3	
575	351	Menzies (John)	370		4.9	9.7
5½	1	Midgrade?	1½			
29½	14½	Midsales?	25½		2.4	8.7
326½	172	Normans?	235		5.2	10.1
281	140½	Northamber	145	- 5	3.6	8.4
342	117	Partco	150½		7.6	9.3
312½	125½	Pendragon	183½	+ 1	7.6	8.3
255	120½	Perry Gp	129	- 1	9.2	4.9
443	138	Premier Farnell	191½	+ 29	7.3	8.3
164½	62½	Quadic? Group	91½	- 5	10.9	5.9
152	40	REA	45	.	8.9	11.0
3	1½	Reece	2			
38½	21½	Ring	30½	.	6.6	12.7
3½	0½	Ronson	1½		...	...
5½	2½	Ross Gp	3½			9.1
112½	57½	Rybind?	80	.	7.0	5.8
31½	10½	SEP Intl	13½	- ½	12.3	6.3
[illegible]						

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES (continued)

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
930	520	BMW	741½	- 16½	2.1	17.7
5571½	2693½	General Mtr	5571½	+ 40½	2.2	...
611	381	Henlys	472½	+ 44	4.4	11.9
2403½	1444	Honda Motor	2161½	- 46	0.4	15.4
480	123	Laird	282½	+ 3½	7.1	6.7
297	166	LucasVarity	290½	+ 7	2.0	18.2
244½	118½	Mayflower	131½	- 1½	2.8	11.5
136	95½	Sylone?	98½	.	8.9	7.2
31½	17½	Toad	22			...
304	65	Torotrak	65		...	...
[illegible]						

INVESTMENT TRUSTS (continued)

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]						
20	0	Inc Bidec Wts	0½		...	
59½	27	INVESCO Asia	42	.	1.9	39.8
217½	108	INVESCO Eng Inf	115½	- ½	1.7	36.4
97	21½	INVESCO Jap Dis	37			
61	22½	INVESCO Korea	55½			
33½	19	INVESCO Tokyo	26½			
107½	67	JF Fledg Jap	102½		...	...
243	135	J Fry Euro U	237	+ ½	3.1	34.6
159½	65½	J Fry Util	158½	+ ½	4.4	19.0
95½	79½	J Fry Util Inc	92½	+ ½	7.6	66.9
150	116½	Jupiter Ex Inc	145		8.9	17.9
43½	17½	Jupiter Ex IncWt	37½	.	...	

LEISURE & HOTELS (continued)

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]						
43½	12½	Queens Moat	20½			3.2
421	181	Rank Grpt	307½	+ 4	10.3	7.7
49	27	Regal Hotel	27		6.2	5.3
84½	49½	Ryan Hotels IE	62½	.	3.8	10.6
51½	17	Sheffield United	19½	.	...	...
252½	102½	Sinclair (Wm)	123½	..	9.2	8.6
80½	37½	Southampton	39½	.	3.2	4.2
143½	79½	Stakis	101½	- 1	3.3	12.4
343	250½	Stanley Leisure†	301½	....	2.0	17.2
10	2½	Tandem	3	...	...	
346	346	Tanjong#	346	...	1.0	46.8
250½	102½	Thistle Hotels	119	+ 9	4.5	10.3
208	106	Thomson Travel	146	- 3	2.4	19.0
87	59	Tottenham Hot	72	.	1.0	...
217½	95	Vardon	116½	- 2½	2.7	15.0
109	45	Waterhall	53½	..	0.6	14.8
412½	284	Wembley	366½	- 5	1.4	9.5
162½	104½	Zetters Gp	112½		10.9	7.1

MEDIA

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
280	198	Hodder H'line	288	..	3.9	13.6
93½	22	ITE Group†	37	+ 2½	6.0	6.3
397½	197½	Independent	240	- 2½	3.6	...
388½	141½	Informa	380½	...	2.0	21.7
[illegible]						

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

INSURANCE

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Annie Turner introduces a three-page special report on an industry transformed by space-age technology and lower overheads

Internet triggers data boom

The telecommunications industry is in a frenzy. Its traditional trade, telephone calls (including faxes) is growing at 6 per cent a year in the West. Such a rise would be enviable in many industries, yet it pales when compared with the estimated growth in data traffic, which consultants put at about 150 per cent a year in developed countries.

That figure comes from Deloitte Consulting. Most of this new traffic has been generated by the Internet, which consumers and many businesses access via the telephone network.

The biggest companies have a dedicated link. With these phenomenal rates of growth, it will not be long before data transmission surpasses vocal interchange as the dominant form of long-distance communication. It is already happening in Britain. Last November Bill Cockburn, the managing director of British Telecom, announced that more data is transmitted over BT's telephone network than voice calls.

Things have moved fast since then. Freeserve, a free Internet access service launched last September by the Dixons Group, the electrical retailer, now has 900,000 customers, making it the world's fastest-growing Internet service provider. Dixons reckons an average of 8,000 people join its service daily, 40 per cent of whom are new to the Internet. Freeserve provides free Net access, electronic mail service, UK-based news and 15 megabytes of Web space per customer.

It makes money by receiving a small percentage of the cost of the local call necessary to connect the user to the Net, which varies between one and six pence per minute. Dixons claims to save consumers an average of £150 a year, compared with "traditional" Internet service providers, which typically charge a monthly fee.

The Dixons experience is illustrative of a change across the developed world. It is now widely accepted that telecoms underpin just about every other industry, so many countries are opening up their telecoms markets to competition after years of resistance. At the beginning of last year, most of the European Union member countries opened their telecom sectors to full competition, while much of Latin America and parts of Asia are doing the same.

New players are keen to enter liberalised markets because the combination of new technology and lower overheads means that they can compete with the incumbent operator, which was likely to have been part of the civil service, not a commercial organisation with shareholder pressures.

As Dixons has shown to great effect, in this new, multilayered market, there is a great opportunity for non-telecoms companies to be successful service providers, leaving others to provide the infrastructure and administration.

A whole new breed of telecoms service providers has grown up to exploit new markets and the insatiable demand for more capacity, or bandwidth. Companies such as WorldCom, Carrier 1 and Level 3 recognised that by building their own international networks, they could circumnavigate the accounting rate system — the way in which the former monopolies carved up revenue from international calls between them through a series of agreements.

> 'People in the street are having a marvellous time. They are getting better services for less and less money'

The new generation is building infrastructure using cheaper, newer technologies that can provide huge amounts of bandwidth at a stroke.

Naturally, they install more capacity than they actually need and sell it on to other carriers who, elsewhere in the world, are probably their rivals.

This process has given rise to an industry that is complex in structure, increasingly works through arbitrage and has spawned many niche service opportunities, such as that grasped by Dixons. Analysts estimate that the Freeserve initiative has added £1 to the Dixons share price. That would make Freeserve worth £433 million if it were a separate company, according to the industry newspaper *Communications Week International*. Dixons hopes to make a great deal more money in the future from advertising and Net commerce. The UK market for Net retail sales could be as much as £2.8 billion by 2003.

With the promise of such riches, it is little wonder that all around the world, the telecoms sector has defied gravity. For example, the financial markets were in turmoil in October, when the first tranche of the former Swiss monopoly's shares was sold, yet the shares were massively oversubscribed. Altogether, more than £24 billion was raised in telecoms and related stock on the world's stock markets in 1998.

WorldCom, the aggressive US-based company that surprised everyone by snatching MCI from BT's acquisitive jaws last year, has based its entire business plan on the fact that it will keep growing at an amazing rate — and the financial sector has backed it to the hilt.

Marcus de Ferranti is the managing director and co-founder of Band-X, based in London. Two years ago, the company was the first in the world to offer bandwidth for sale on the open market, matching up prospective buyers and sellers for a flat fee. The service has become increasingly sophisticated so that it now operates like a quasi-stock market and has emulators in other advanced markets such as the US and Canada.

Mr de Ferranti says: "Rates on international routes are plummeting. Once a country liberalises its telecommunications, prices usually fall by a factor of ten in two years. Everyone thinks prices are going to hit rock bottom and stabilise, but they just keeping going down and the speed of their fall is catching everyone out. At the moment, competition in the wholesale market is fierce and lots of people are selling below cost. I believe the bubble will burst within the next couple of years and that will drive a massive period of consolidation."

Mr de Ferranti adds: "Some people will lose money on the stock market, but the person in the street is having a marvellous time. They are the real beneficiaries, getting better and better services for less and less money."



High hopes: an Iridium satellite is powered into space

Iridium fights back in war of satellites

In November the first salvo was fired in the battle for supremacy in satellite mobile phones — but so far it has failed to set the world ablaze.

Iridium, the first into the marketplace, has launched 66 satellites into low Earth orbit (LEO) — 468 miles high. These transmit calls around the world and down to 12 Earth stations or "gateways", where they link with the terrestrial phone network. But technical problems, poor transmission quality, lack of handsets and criticisms about costs have dogged Iridium's early days.

Figures released last week show that there has been little take-up of subscriptions globally, and not a single handset has been sold in Britain.

Satellite phones have, of course, been around for years. Briefcase-sized, they must be set up in advance and aimed at a satellite 21,240 miles above the Equator, so you are unable to call someone travelling around — you must wait until they call you. Because of the lower orbit, Iridium handsets need less power, are lighter and more portable. Made by Motorola and Kyocera, they look like mobile phones with bigger antennae, and cost around £2,200.

The system was intended to revolutionise communications for business travellers outside the conventional cellular network and to attract people working in less developed countries, users of commercial and leisure boats, long-distance trucks and aid organisations.

> Travellers in remote countries will be able to call home

Signals travel more quickly to LEO satellites, reducing the delay that can make conversation so awkward.

Iridium has recruited conventional cellular service providers as "roaming partners" to make the links in cities — in the UK it is Orange. Iridium also offers worldwide paging services and a GSM-style short message service, and has promised e-mail and fax.

But the firm has been heavily criticised for the complexity of its cost structure, in which it acts as a wholesaler, selling airtime to the gateway operators. It sells it to the service providers and roaming partners, who sell it at retail prices to the customer.

Andrew Tolputt is a telecoms market analyst at Phillips Tarifica, which monitors telecom pricing. He says: "Service providers can set prices at what they feel the market justifies. It's a global system, so you can go to a service provider in a cheaper region."

Lance Stevens, the business development manager at Orange, cites as an example the cost of an Iridium call from the UK to America of £3 per minute and to China of £4.22.

For those who are not already Orange customers, there are also connection and monthly subscription charges — as well as the cost of the phone. However, Orange is still testing the service and is not yet offering it to consumers. Multinational businesses are in a position to select the service provider which offers the best deal. Is this unfair to individuals?

Craig Bond, Iridium's vice-president of market development, says: "Each country has different taxes and import tariffs on handsets and pagers — differences over which we have no control. Shopping around is inevitable."

Even then, the cost of going mobile by satellite is still considerable. Jonathan Morgan-Jones, a researcher with the Telecom Managers' Association, says: "Iridium has chosen a sensible model because it is flexible. You can use your current cellular service provider, and put your Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) card in an Iridium phone. But the flipside is the cost — due to their need to recover their investment quickly."

Costs will be brought into focus this autumn when Globalstar, a consortium led by Loral Space & Communications, starts commercial service; and in 2000, ICO Global Communications also launches a satellite phone service. As well as voice and paging services, Globalstar plans to offer fax, data transmission and position location services.

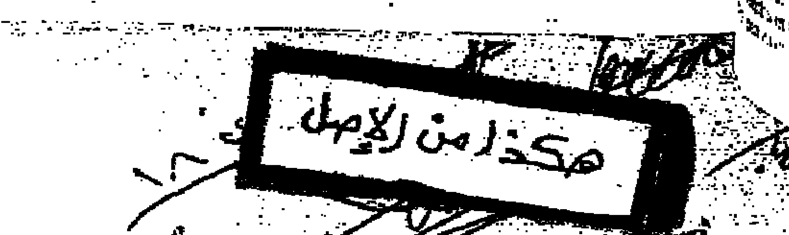
ICO claims the highest data rates among its immediate competition but is focusing on voice, fax and e-mail.

Like Iridium, both competitors are planning to sell wholesale time to service providers. Handsets are expected to cost £600 and airtime costs are estimated at £1 per minute by Globalstar and £1.20 by ICO.

Both companies are also targeting parts of the world with little or no telecoms infrastructure. ICO has struck a deal with the payphone manufacturer Landis & Gyr to provide satellite phone booths.

Mike Johnson, global media director for ICO, says that developing world services will be subsidised by those for business travellers.

SUE SPENCELEY BURCH



A future of colour and whiz-bangs

Tomorrow's digital and mobile phones will supply customers with voice, data and other services, says Annie Turner

The world's existing telecommunications network is coming to the end of its useful life, a notion that is hard to grasp in the light of its current use.

Last year, international phone calls amounted to about 90 billion minutes, up from 82 billion in 1997, according to the Geneva-based International Telecommunication Union. Yet by volume (as opposed to value) international calls account for only 2 per cent of the total number, the vast majority of which are local calls.

The existing network was built to carry phone calls — soon destined to become a small portion of the traffic generated by developed countries where data traffic is growing by as much as 150 per cent a year. This is because of the apparently inexorable rise of the Internet which has 100 million users, a number expected to double in the next 18 months.

This is causing capacity shortages on many routes, particularly transatlantic links, because at least 60 per cent of Internet traffic is still routed via America.

Marie Wold, the head of the European Telecommunications and Media Institute at Deloitte Consulting, points out that the next generation of mobile phones (which will be available from 2002 onwards) is being designed to deal with data as well as voice. She predicts: "By 2010 about 90 per cent of traffic on mobile networks will be data."

It is not just the volume that is creating problems, but the phone network's use of circuit switching which maintains a live, dedicated link between the parties during a telephone call.

This is a very inefficient use of network capacity, or bandwidth, especially when compared with data's use of packet-switched technology. Here data is chopped up into small packets, each of which is addressed to the recipient and sequentially numbered.

The packets are fired into the mesh of the network and might take different routes to reach their destinations, being reassembled in the right order at the far end using their sequence numbers. Packets can also be interleaved with those from other transmissions en route.

The technology used to "packetise" a voice, so that it is treated as just another type of data, is advancing in leaps and bounds. Still images and video, too, can be transmitted in this way, which means that many types of traffic can be treated in a uniform fashion, leveraging economies of scale for network operators and greatly simplifying network management.

The Internet appears both to have created the problem and provided a solution for it in the shape of Internet Protocol (IP). This is the transport mechanism which comprises rules to ensure the smooth running of the network, averting traffic jams and collisions on the Internet and on the new generation of networks.

And IP will not only rule on core networks. There is a host of new "access technologies" that will ensure that IP traffic flows right into people's homes — fixed wireless links might be employed or the existing copper cabling in the ground, but with whiz-bang electronics on the exchange and consumer ends of the line.

By whatever means it is delivered, IP will mean that consumers have digital links from end-to-end, but with far faster line speeds than are currently available with Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN).

Bob Brace, the marketing director with Nokia Telecommunications based at Heathrow, says: "IP will be a tremendous unifying factor. We will end up with a single network connection into the home for games, multiple phone lines for different members of the family, video-on-demand, access to information and electronic mail.

"You will be able to download the latest CD — or just the parts of it you want — instead of having to go to the shop or listen to a Californian radio station online."

The American television channel NBC is already exploring new ways of delivering information in addition to broadcasting, Mr Brace says.

"This includes cable television infrastructure and the Internet," he says. "Television as we know it now will be steam-age technology in ten years."

Likewise advances in the core transmission network are dwarfing current fibre-optic capacities. A new technology known as Wave Division Multiplexing (WDM) splits up the light signal into colours, producing multiple different-length signals which can be transmitted simultaneously.

Originally, one fibre pair had the capacity to carry 32,000 voices at once. Two years ago Ciena, one of the pioneers of WDM, deployed a cable that could simultaneously support 16 different length signals or channels, which means it can carry the equivalent of 512,000 voice calls, according to Guy Powell, the managing director of Ciena for Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

He says: "Systems with 96 channels will shortly be deployed that will support almost three million calls at once. In data terms, that translates to one terabit [a million million bits]."



Using lasers to break white light into multiple colours allows a single fibre to carry a million-plus phone calls per second

Providers who seek a Net profit

A new breed of business, the Internet service provider or ISP, has emerged from the rapid growth of Internet traffic. For a monthly subscription, providers such as Yahoo!, Demon, Pipex, Virgin Net and Direct Connection will connect you to the Net and provide an e-mail address.

Connecting your computer to a modem allows you to transmit data on the phone line. When you log on to the ISP's host computer or server, you can send and receive messages, as well as access online information and surf the World Wide Web, for the price of a local phone call.

It sounds like a lot of investment for the ISP for very little return. But the profit area is electronic commerce: home banking or shopping over the Net. Being an ISP opens the door to business opportunities and new ISPs are starting up all the time. Tesco is offering an ISP service in expectation of a home-shopping revolution that could see a fleet of vans deliver groceries that have been ordered on the Web.

> David Bowie will be doing live chats on the Web

And the rock star David Bowie has set up an ISP. Alex Judd of Presco, a Net ad agency, says: "The man will do live chats. The site is sold on novelty value."

BT claims that the Net has a 6 per cent market penetration in the UK and that it is likely to rise greatly with the coming of digital TV when set-top boxes will be able to bring the Net into the home. More than 1.3 million households have access to the Net, making them online customers for the ISPs.

But Net opportunities are international and many of the big players — such as America Online, Excite Inc and CompuserveUK — originated in the US. Marie Wold of Deloitte Consulting says: "ISPs are doubling their business every five or six months throughout Europe and every three months in the US. We're seeing massive proliferation; there doesn't appear to be a slowdown."

The decision by Dixons to offer free Net access — which it can do through a deal with the telecommunications company Energis — is putting the pressure on other ISPs to offer more value. And with the growing revenues from online advertising and e-commerce, ISPs are able to offer some good deals.

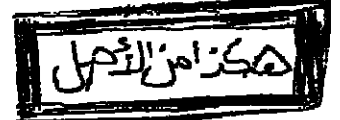
Virgin Net has gone for subsidised rather than free Net access. David Johnson, its commercial director, says: "We're evolving into something even more closely aligned to the Virgin brand and we are making the most of retail opportunities in areas of business that Virgin operates in." Subscribers can book their Virgin flights, buy CDs, or listen to Virgin radio and — through a tie-in with Citibank — enjoy free home banking and current accounts that pay interest.

The rapidly evolving ISPs are finding that to cash in on e-commerce, they need to build customer loyalty. ISPs are trying hard to differentiate themselves by offering useful services to customers — content such as news, music and sport, as well as chat communities and subscriber offers. Quality of service is a big issue, as anyone who has experienced the frustrations of connecting at times of peak demand can testify.

Presco's Mr Judd says: "Many ISPs are investing in more powerful infrastructure to ensure a faster service, better support and a better connection rate. What is termed the hassle factor comes into it — if you always get connected first time, you will remain loyal. Some ISPs are offering subscribers free Web space to set up their own site."

Each ISP can exploit a different niche market. Pipex, for example, offers an information service aimed at journalists. One of the biggest niche markets is education — eventually 30,000 UK schools will be linked to the National Grid for Learning.

STEPHEN HOARE



Dawn of a new age for Japan

The multimedia market is set to play a major part in the country's economy, says **Ruth Taplin**

THE subtlety and understatement of Japanese culture often makes it appear that little is happening in the country. However, in the telecommunications and IT sectors, change is occurring rapidly at all levels.

Digital TV broadcasting has brought multimedia into the mainstream of Japanese society, producing links between telecommunications, broadcasting and information services. The *multimedia* markets are restructuring and laying the groundwork for future growth. With high-speed, high-volume communications made possible by fibre optic networks, teleshopping, home communications, karaoke, Internet TV and digital versatile disk (DVD) are all being planned for the 21st century to support the economy in the future.

DVD, the latest in CD-Rom technology, has a huge storage capacity, able to provide up to 133 minutes of video playback time. The Japanese Ministry of Post and Telecommunications has predicted that 123 trillion yen will be spent by consumers on the multimedia market by 2010. Internet services are also becoming more established: the Multimedia Contents Association of Japan (MMCA) has found that Internet users total more than ten million. *E-mail*, *personal computer communications and network shopping at virtual shopping centres are becoming more usual in Japan.*

The restructuring of existing networks such as NTT and KDD and newly created networks such as *International Digital* Communications (IDC), Teleway Japan (TWJ) and Nippon Tsusin (IDO) and Japan Telecom are laying the foundations for new Internet-related businesses that involve electronic money and Internet telephones.

Competition in Japan is growing — exemplified by the fact that 123 Type 1 telecommunications businesses now exist in the country. Although NTT remains the largest company — dominating long-distance and local services with turnover of more than $60 billion — its predominance is now being challenged.

KDD, once involved only in international calls, now offers a domestic phone service that can provide cheaper calls than NTT in categories exceeding 12 miles. Competition is forcing NTT and KDD to offer more attractive rates. The Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC) is a good example of how the deregulated new communications networks operate in Japan: TMC is the major equity sharer in TWJ, IDC and IDO.

TWJ is involved in a number of services, *such as the 0070 Freephone, a call connect* service, VPN (Virtual Personal Exclusive Line Networks), Cell Relay Service and Teleway Sirius, an Internet service provider. Its sales are more than 110 billion yen.

IDC is involved in optic fibre cable-laying projects: IDC Home Dial, a credit card-based automatic dialling service from overseas to Japan; it started Internet International Gateway services; established IDO Solutions, a 100 per cent-owned subsidiary; and in March 1998 expanded its services to 208 *locations. Its turnover is more than 70 bil*lion yen. IDO has been involved in cellular phone and digital cellular phone services. Since March 1997 it has been collaborating with DDI in the introduction of CDMA digital protocol cellular phone services. GSM, *the traditional digital protocol technology*, has not been readily available in Japan, so the spread of CDMA will need to be assessed. IDO is a good example *of how* complex Japanese telecommunications are presenting many obstacles to Western *companies. The extent of co-operation* among rival Japanese communication networks is remarkable. In the PHS market, for example, most regions have three companies competing to provide improved services. Toyota, through its TWJ arm, is support*ing the construction of a nationwide net*work by investing capital in Astel Tokyo and Astel Chubu. TWJ invests in Astel companies throughout Japan. The PHS has been one of the most popular mobile phones here. NTT, with its Personal Communications *Network, is its main rival, along with DDI* Pocket Telephone.

> The test will be whether companies can successfully challenge Western rivals

It is difficult to see where the room exists for American or European companies. The problem for Japanese companies is that at home and abroad all their efforts are invested in Japanese-related activities. NTT, KDD and even Toyota are fulfilling the needs of Japanese companies and consumers for their telecommunications and multimedia services. The test will be whether they can successfully challenge Western companies and become household names as they did with cameras, photocopiers and the like.

The Finns and the Italians have gone mad for mobiles, says **Tony Dawe**



Talking their way into the record books

Two of the most disparate nationalities in *Europe are rivalling* each other in the race to top the league of mobile phone users.

The Finns, famous for being fair-skinned and taciturn, and the olive-skinned and gregarious Italians could become the most permanently switched-on peoples within a couple of years, according to research by Salomon merchant bank. It predicts that the two countries will be the first to have more mobile phones than people but for very different reasons.

"The Finns have taken to *mobile phones because the* population is spread across the country. They have also been offered some of the lowest tariffs in the world," says John Jensen, Salomon's wireless analyst. "The Italians have been attracted to them because of excellent prepayment deals."

The popularity of mobiles in Finland has undoubtedly prospered because Nokia, which has just overtaken Motorola as the world's leading manufacturer of mobiles, is a Finnish company. It generates, on its own, a third of Finland's annual economic growth; its shares account for half the trading on the Helsinki stock exchange and Jorma Ollila, Nokia's president, was recently voted the second most powerful person in the country in a nationwide poll.

The company has not, however, swamped the country with cheap "terminals", as it calls the phones. Finns pay *£100 and more for a phone but* the cost of calls is hardly any more expensive than using a fixed line. Finland currently tops the mobile phone "penetration league", with 56 portables *for every 100 people*, according to recent statistics from the ECM World Cellular Database.

The forecasts that the number of phones will outstrip *the number of people is based* on their popularity among children, with nearly all 16 to 24-year-olds possessing a mobile. About one in three schoolchildren possesses one. They are marketed aggressively at children, with parents happy to buy Citiphones, which work only within Helsinki's boundaries and cut off after a fixed amount, normally 100 markka (£12), has been spent on calls.

Mobile phones were top of the pre-teens' Christmas gift lists and dominated newspaper and television advertising for the festive period.

In a country famous for its love of vodka, the future of the mobile phone could also be guaranteed by the discovery of one that runs on alcohol. Researchers at Manhattan Scientific in the United States have developed a phone with a fuel cell that works by a chemical process and is recharged by injecting a small alcohol-fill that provides enough power for two weeks' use.

In Italy the popularity of mobiles *is* a new phenomenon, with the launch of pre-paid services by Telecom Italia Mobile, Omnitel and their recently licensed rival, Wind, an Italian, French and German consortium. Customers buy their handsets at market rather than subsidised prices and pay for their calls in advance.

"The pre-paid services were promoted very cleverly and the prices pitched just right to catch on," says Mr Jensen. The schemes also benefited from the traditionally high tariffs charged for calls from fixed lines.

The services have helped the market to grow by 80 per cent in the past year to total 18 million subscribers, more than a *third of the country's population.*

The boom may be slowed by an increase in the cost of calling cellular phones from fixed lines earlier this month. The in*crease resulted from* a "*simplification*" of tariffs ordered by Italy's telecoms watchdog, which seems to benefit only those already enjoying off-peak deals.

Mr Jensen insists, however, that the Italians, together with the Finns, will continue to snap up mobile phones. *He says:* "The explosion in the use of the Internet has resulted partly from more and more people getting e-mail addresses and those without them feeling left out. The same will happen with mobile phones. When people without one are regularly asked for their mobile number, they will soon acquire one. The cost of not being a cellular subscriber is going up, but the cost of being connected is coming down."

Capital ideas for inventors

Venture capitalists are on the lookout for bright ideas

Without small and medium-size enterprises, or SMEs, there would be no large telecommunications companies. All global multinationals start out as small companies with a good idea, and even when they become large, they still rely on smaller and medium-size enterprises for cutting-edge ideas, *Ruth Taplin writes.*

The UK has no shortage of inventors, but it has had a shortage of visionary venture capital companies and late-pay legislation. The latter has been addressed by legislation concerning a Better Payment Practice Code pushed through by Barbara Roche, then Small Firms Minister, which demands that large firms pay interest at 8 per cent above base rate on overdue debts to small suppliers.

The other problem for high-tech companies is obtaining venture capital. This is especially difficult after the second or third phase of the project, when extra capital is needed for product update, a new sales effort and improved facilities.

Alex Henderson, managing director of Nairn Douglas, and past president of the Federation of Electronics Industry (FEI), notes signs of change for high-tech companies seeking venture capital. The FEI has run three successful investment forums at which innovators can present their cases for financial assistance to potential investors.

> Investors wish to see a clear business plan

Individual and corporate investors are careful to assess whether market research has been done to prove that there is demand for a new technology and that the product or service constitutes a genuine breakthrough. Other pitfalls for innovators include inadequate business plans. Investors need to have a clear, convincing business plan before they are willing to commit funds.

Understanding who the investor is, whether individual or corporate, is essential for the high-tech company. Many investors have particular preference or even geographical limits. Innovators need to familiarise themselves with the investors and their terms for offering money as well.

The different, but successful, approaches to corporate venturing show that both larger institutional as well as smaller, more individual companies can be effective in providing venture capital to the SME.

Celtic House Investment Corporation (CHIC) was founded by Terry Matthews, a Welsh-born entrepreneur who is the founder and chairman of Newbridge Network Corporation, a Canadian telecommunications company. Since its formation in 1987, Newbridge has increased its annual turnover to more than $1 billion.

Mr Matthews set up CHIC in 1994 as his own private company to invest in high-growth start-up enterprises in the IT-telecom sector, with an emphasis on identifying technologies and businesses that are potentially complementary to Newbridge or that will give Newbridge exposure to a diversified range of emerging technologies.

This institutional approach has led to CHIC investing in almost 40 start-up companies. In some cases Newbridge has been a co-investor from the outset, such as with the Cambridge-based encryption company, nCipher.

In the Welsh convergence software company Ubiquity it has become an investor at a later date. Over the past year or so investments by CHIC/Newbridge in just four of such start-ups have resulted in gains of nearly $500 million to the two companies.

A more individual approach shows that passion or an emotional investment in the company that the venture capital company is supporting can be just as important as providing monetary assistance.

Richard Davidson, who works in a specialist technology team based in the City of London that assists early stage companies with their financing, agrees. He says: "We try to find investors who not only understand the technology but are passionate about it.

"This means a small number of highly skilled venture firms in Europe, but very often it can also mean having to take the companies across the water to investors in Silicon Valley, where the familiarity with these types of venture is more widespread. In some cases, we will make the investment ourselves."

One such example is Zeus Technology, a Cambridge-based webserver tools business. Mr Davidson says: "Zeus is the pick of the early-stage technology companies in the UK, and such was our passion for its business that we decided to get involved individually. I would say that it is passion, coupled with a healthy cynicism, that should guide the investor."

But, in the final analysis, whether you are seeking capital for an SME IT high-tech venture, or providing capital and passion, proceed with caution.

Notions and potions sure to win hearts

Katherine Bergen offers gift ideas for everyone from the most romantic to the most forgetful

The view — espoused by some women and many men — that Valentine's Day is sentimental tosh and should be ignored doesn't really wash. The irony is that it is the romantic slush factor that provides a welcome relief from the curmudgeonly attitudes we often endure in daily life.

So how do you plan to celebrate? By **Word of Mouth** (0181-871 9566), the London caterer, suggests a sensuous meal for two at home with iced vodka and oysters, marinated salmon and heart-shaped passion-fruit *panna cotta*. First set the scene. "Tie your napkins with pale pink organza and cover the table in crushed velvet, on which you can scatter rosebuds and jasmine," says a spokesman for By Word of Mouth. "Put a vase of rosewater and some floating candles in the centre and arrange night-lights in frosted glass around the room for a warm atmosphere."

If you want garlic bread on your Valentine's Day menu, you can now do so without fear of offending. Tesco has bread that has a new strain of garlic baked inside — it looks and tastes like normal garlic but without the lingering aroma. The post-prandial kiss will be all the better for it. A serving costs 89p.



Tea for two: sip Lady Grey from a special Twinings set

If you prefer tea for two, **Twinings** has new teasets that feature heart-shaped plates and saucers covered in rosebuds and hearts. The £50 set comprises a teapot, two cups and saucers, a cake plate and a box of Twinings Lady Grey tea (Twinings mail order 0171-353 3511).

When it comes to sentimental tosh, chocolates are the tastiest kind. **Thorntons** sells a large diet-busting heart-shaped box in romantic red for £20.

Penhaligon's (Freephone 0800-716 108) has invented a whole new perfume for Valentine's Day — Love Potion No 9. The ladies' eau de toilette is pink and has green top notes, rich floral middle notes and base notes of precious wood and amber. The men's version is a citrus, spice and wood combination and comes in an intriguing black bottle. Prices start at £15.

Lavenders Blue (01483 211339), the mail-order company, has a Valentine selection. A silver heart box is £4.50, a heart soap dish that includes a hand-made soap is £8.50, a mother-of-pearl heart is £4.50 and a terracotta heart dish filled with lavender or rose pot-pourri £12.50.

A company called **800 Hampers** (07071 280800; website: www.800Hampers.com) offers a huge range. The Standard Romantic costs £24.99, while the Deluxe Romantic is £69.99. They include Glencoe smoked salmon, champagne and chocolates.

If your loved one has been overdoing it, present him or her with a hand-made heart footstool. It is upholstered in gold damask with matching tassels, and has beech legs. It costs £99.95 from **House of Bath** (0870 60 750 21).

The same company sells a heart curio table to house all those romantic keepsakes for £89.95.

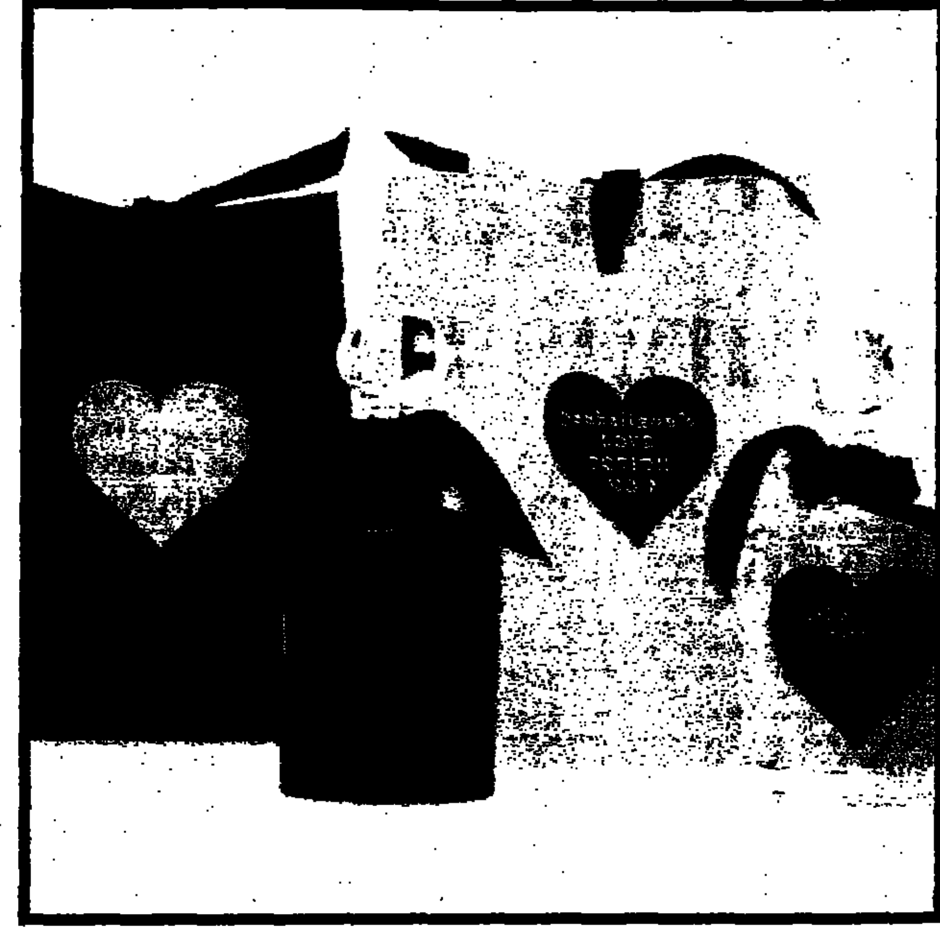


Thorntons' boxed chocs

Care For The Wild International (01293-871 596), the wildlife charity, suggests adopting an orphaned animal as a long-lasting and meaningful gift. Having chosen an animal — elephant, rhino, chimp, orang-utan, badger or tiger — the foster parent then receives an adoption certificate, a colour photograph of the orphan, a T-shirt, a factsheet, a video and a six-monthly update. Prices range from £14.95 to £49.95.

For another unconventional gesture, buy a property in Valentine Road, London E9. The estate agent **Sovereign Park** (0181-985 5800) has two properties there: a lower ground-floor garden flat for £69,995 and a three-bedroom maisonette with a roof terrace for £139,995.

Finally, if you are prone to forgetting dates such as Valentin's Day altogether, **The Gift Delivery Company** (01483 440892) has a free anniversary reminder service that goes with the gift delivery service, and is designed to ensure that busy people do not miss important anniversaries or special occasions. Customers register all the important dates by post, fax or over the Internet. Then, two weeks before the event, they are contacted and given a reminder and a list of goodies from which to choose.



Uncommon scents: Love Potion No 9, a new creation from Penhaligon's

media times

Is it hot stuff or just another listings mag?

Has Emap Metro's new title got what it takes to succeed in a tough market? **Tina Gaudoin** reports

Just because something *is not a new idea doesn't* mean it's a bad one. *Emap Metro's newest* publication, *heat*, claims to be the "ultimate weekly entertainment fix". However, if you're an entertainment junkie or you have spent time in America, you will quickly spot the *similarities between heat* and the hugely successful American publication *Entertainment Weekly* (although *EW* doesn't contain TV listings).

The comparison does not please Mark Williamson, the publisher of *heat*, who hotly denies any suggestion of a *link, saying: "This has been an* idea in David Hepworth's mind for at least five years." Granted, Hepworth, the editorial director whose triumphs include *Smash Hits, Just Seventeen, Q* and *More!*, is a pub*lishing legend (at least in the* magazine industry) and anything with his stamp stands more than an odds-on chance of succeeding. But, *presented with the respective magazines,* even my dog could sniff out *the similarities.*

According to Williamson: "We've spent lots of money and time designing *heat*. It has been a long time since *Entertainment Weekly* won any design awards." Ouch! Williamson and the *heat* team should be flattered, not defensive. *EW* broke the mould in the US and went on to make millions. There's no reason why *heat* *shouldn't do the same.* But perhaps the *heat* team is asking itself the same question as everyone else about the launch *of something dedicated to* those who are, in Williamson's words, "mad for entertainment". Are there enough entertainment junkies out there to merit a weekly magazine? And, what's more, can the magazine do what *EW* does so well — deliver stories *exclusively and first?*

To say that Mark Frith, the editor of *heat*, is "bullish" about his magazine's chances would be an understatement. As a former magazine editor myself, it's hard not to over*look the carefully prepared* pre-launch media soundbite (and why shouldn't he be prepared — this is a huge launch with a £4.5 million budget).

When I ask how *heat* will compete with the highly influential, huge-circulation weekend supplements, Frith's reply is textbook: "We are not in competition with anyone else. We are a one-stop shop for entertainment fans. We won't always be first, but we will *always be the best."*

But the increasing "glossiness" of the Saturday and Sunday newspaper magazines, plus the advent of entertain*ment-based* listing guides, such as *The Times's* metro, the *Evening Standard's* Hot Tickets and *The Guardian's* The Guide, mean that the entertainment beat is more heavily populated than ever.

A *weekly entertainment* magazine has the potential to break *stories. Frith, the former* editor of *Sky Magazine*, has *surrounded himself with* a crack team. Charles Gant, formerly of *The Face*, is one of Britain's best magazine film editors, and the news editor, Matt Smith, formerly at *NME*, should have great *access to entertainment news* stories. But do the British re*semble the Americans* in their "need" to consume infotainment on a vast scale? Do we really need to know the background to Leonardo Di Caprio's *problems on the set of The Beach*, for example? After *all, most of us either* read about it in the "red tops" or saw it on *News at Ten*.

If *heat* is to succeed it will need to do a lot better than tepid stories in the *preview issue about* why Cameron Diaz is the "most beautiful woman in the world"; an "exclusive" on Ewan McGregor and Anna Friel in *Rogue Trader*, which is unaccompanied by a quote *from either actor*; a Q&A session with Christian Slater which asks "where did you go when you went out?"; or a sexist article on The Corrs, which wastes *two paragraphs on* Andrea Corr's backless outfit.

Not that there's anything wrong with any of these topics. I'm rather envious of Andrea Corr's figure myself. But I could get this stuff from any *number of existing magazines.*



High hopes: *heat's* launch is costing £4.5 million

If *heat's* readership is to remain loyal, it needs to be offered something more, or at least different. But (as I know to my cost) it's easy to knock a launch. And *heat* is full of MTV-style pace and energy. I like its well-researched readbite pages — even though my favourite readbite (that Salman Rushdie and U2 have pooled talents to come up with *a shanty*) was in *The Guardian* last week. The *writing is humorous* and sharp, although for a magazine that professes to be Brit-centric, there's a lot of American material.

To be fair, the *preview issue* is not the same product that will hit the newsstands next week. The launch issue promises, among other things, Johnny and Kelly in a *Big Breakfast* interview and a report on the Golden Globes — both *should* be good. *If I were to* find fault with *heat*, I would say that the design leaves me cold. Boxy layouts, packed pages and heavy black type *smacks of mid-Nineties* lad mags. Is it me or is everyone a bit *suspicious* of a magazine that uses exclamation marks in almost every headline?

But then again, I know better than to doubt the power of *a mega-magazine empire willing to put millions into focus*-grouping, researching and promoting what we "really, really want". When *Red* (also an Emap Metro product) launched over a year ago it blew *Frank*, the magazine that I was editing, out of the water in terms of launch budget and advertising revenue alone.

Emap Metro has an uncontested history of understand*ing the mass market, but it* *needs to have done its* research exceptionally well to reach the 100,000 ABC figures it forecasts for the first year.

So, can it make it? The problem with launching a magazine in the UK is, as a New York editor friend so accurately observed: "You Brits hate anything new with words and pictures in it." That comment alone makes it worthwhile *hoping for heat's success.*

THE TIMES VERDICT

'The pace is hectic'

■ *IT'S bright*, it's confident, there is certainly plenty of information in it and it feels and looks like a monthly read, so there *is a strong sense* of value for money. *heat* certainly looks different from other British entertainment magazines; overall, the influence *of Q can be detected*, but there is a very American feel to the front half, with lots of red and black type and coloured panels.

It is difficult to discern who the target reader is — is it the secretary on her way to work or the hip young *kid on the street?* The tone is reflective, almost condescending, explaining who The Offspring are, for instance, when every music paper has done them recently, but the pace is hectic; the opening "news" section, with lots of stories *and gossip*, is frantic and would benefit from some stronger pointers to guide readers to specific areas.

The film reviews are entertaining and clearly laid out, but music, videos, books and games are too condensed to have any real *authority and, oddly*, there are no *previews* of upcoming tours or events, which adds to the feeling *that there is nothing proactive going on.*

At the back, the TV listings section offers little different from the myriad listings publications *already on the* market, although the comprehensive film previews are a good idea that should go down well with *those too* exhausted after reading the magazine to think about anything else.

JAYNE DOWLE, editor of metro

'I find the idea enticing'

■ WE *may already* have *more* listings magazines than we need, but who doesn't have the urge to find *something new and entertaining to read?*

If *heat* can provide this, then the fact that it offers TV *times as well should* be considered a bonus.

I find the idea of a newsy magazine rammed with *film, music*, books, celebrities, *gossip* and reviews far more enticing than the predictable fare *of most women's magazines, and I am sure* I am not alone. *heat*'s throwaway lively feel makes it *just the kind of thing I want to devour on the* way home from work. The layout is pleasantly garish, *and although the* pages are *almost too busy, they* make good use of boxes, side-bars and strong pictures.

The massive weakness, however, is the *quality* of the *writing. Many of the features* are shallow and unsophisticated in tone. If *heat* is *to attract its target audience of 18 to* 40-year-olds it must remember that these readers may have a couple of broadsheets and *The Economist* in their bag as well. *heat* is obviously not aiming to be highbrow, but it feels no more grown-up than *Smash Hits*.

BRIDGET HARRISON, assistant features editor

Where does Mirror Group go now?

Raymond Snoddy

The problems of Mirror Group Newspapers have not ended with the departure of its chief executive, David Montgomery — instead, they are just beginning. Montgomery was, ultimately, condemned for not coming up with a coherent strategy for the future of the group that publishes everything from *The Mirror* and *Sunday Mirror* to the *Sunday People* and Scottish *Daily Record*.

Now the chairman, Sir Victor Blank, and other long-serving MGN executives, most of whom were there throughout the Montgomery era, have presumably got to come up with a new strategy. It cannot simply be the obvious one of selling themselves to the highest bidder, or maximising shareholder value, as they put it in the trade. The only clearly identified bidders, the regional newspaper groups Trinity and Regional Independent Media, would face a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation, which could last six months, with no guarantee of success.

So Sir Victor and friends must devise a plan for independent survival even if they think MGN is too small to compete in a world of international multimedia giants. And they will probably have to do it under fire — not just from potential bidders, but also from the competition, who will try to exploit the instability with every weapon at their disposal. There has already been a skirmish this week in the Central Television area in the Midlands, with *The Mirror* cutting its cover price to 20p and *The Sun* instantly replying with a 15p offer.

Part of Montgomery's strategy was spot-on — the move to become less dependent on the difficult mass-market national newspaper market by buying into the regional press with the acquisition of Midland Independent Newspapers. The *Newsletter* in Belfast and the Derry Journal Group were useful additions. The will-they-won't-they pavane over whether *The Sporting Life* should be relaunched as a general sports daily has been a fiasco and should be resolved as soon as possible. The weight of argument has always backed the view that such a thing will be difficult to pull off in the UK.

The most obvious failure, chronicled mercilessly in the new book by Chris Horrie and Adam Nathan, *Live TV: Tellybrats and Topless Darts*, has been MGN's rather sad attempt to get into television. Its last chance to do anything significant was the aborted bid for Channel 5. The 20 per cent stake in Scottish Media Group has become a valuable investment. It can never be anything else because of monopoly problems in Scotland and legislation barring News International, the owner of *The Times*, and MGN from owning more than 20 per cent of mainstream broadcasters because of the size of their national newspaper circulations.

Although the cable channel Live TV became famous thanks to Kelvin MacKenzie and the News Bunny — the latter, apparently, has retired — it could never amount to much. There are hopes that Mirror Television will break even later this year but any notion that this is a way into the television market, other than at the margins, is misconceived. More local and regional newspapers, plus magazines and stakes in commercial radio, might be more appropriate targets.

The picture has been a little brighter for the core business, the national newspapers, with *The Mirror* increasing its circulation by nearly 14,000, or 0.6 per cent, to 2,338,049 in the six months to December, which goes against the trend. But the *Sunday Mirror* lost 12.6 per cent, or 287,510 copies, and *The People*, down 9.4 per cent (177,844), was not far behind.

Even in Scotland circulations are looking "soft". Exclude sales in England and abroad, and the *Daily Record* looks as if it is finding it difficult to stay the right side of 600,000 sales in Scotland. Rivals are surprised by the paper's healthy overseas sales of more than 31,000, mostly in Spain. "The *Record* seems to have uncovered a horde of Scots in Spain, marooned after the annual summer migration and unable to return home," says a rival sniffily.

A year ago the *Record* sold 3,324 copies abroad before it began printing in Spain last July. The remarkable thing is not that Spanish sales have soared but that they seem to be as high in December as at the height of summer.

Such number games indicate just how tough it is out there in the circulation wars. Even if MGN is rescued by Trinity or RIM and the deal gets through the MMC, the problems won't be all over. Neither group has any experience of running popular national newspapers. Trinity appears to think that this could be done mainly from its current headquarters, in Chester. Even with the best will in the world, it is easy to foresee a future in which either group would become increasingly exasperated with the national newspaper business, particularly if some of the best staff left.

How attractive it might seem, after a year or two, to get rid of such an appalling burden and wipe out a pile of debt at the same time. Then it could be a case of "step forward newspaper proprietor Kelvin MacKenzie", with his pockets stuffed with venture capital gold.

His hands are full at the moment with Talk Radio, but MacKenzie is already talking about returning to newspapers one day.

He, of course, would have to be the one handing out the "bollockings" — he has had quite enough of being on the receiving end.

The other Monty

Not everybody hated the Mirror chief, says **Richard Holledge**



GILL ALLEN

David Montgomery left many enemies in his wake, but journalists who knew him as Editor of *Today* remember his strong leadership and capacity for hard work

A very heaven it was to be a journalist with the *Daily Mirror* in the early Nineties. Executives, staff and cronies spent happy hours emptying their office wine cabinets and enjoyed the congenial confines of Vagabonds, a club next to the office.

And as journalists supped the circulation slipped.

Scores of casual workers did the work of some of the staff. Well, someone had to in order to preserve so civilised an existence. It was fun. A sort of cheerful anarchy where expenses were fiddled merrily, chums given shifts and girlfriends paid handsomely for freelance work. One illustrator was paid £80,000 in a single year by the senior executive with whom she lived.

This was 12 months after Robert Maxwell had taken his inopportune paddle, in late 1991, and the fun was about to end. Enter a figure who could hardly have been in greater contrast to the corpulent crook — the slim, nervy, Presbyterian figure of David Montgomery.

For him the drink, the profligacy, the extravagant manpower was almost as corrupt as Maxwell's raid on the pension fund. Furthermore, the culture of the place was at odds with the post-Eighties, go-getting aspirational quality so admired and exploited by Montgomery when he edited the now defunct *Today* newspaper.

For him the Mirror Group 1992 was to be the scene of Fleet Street's last hurrah. He scrapped the remaining wine cabinets, closed the executive-only canteen and opened the senior staff lift to the workers.

Then he moved with such ferocity that people were left feeling that Maxwell hadn't been such a bad old villain after all.Editors were propelled to the door with unnatural haste: exit the *Daily Mirror's* Richard Stott, bye bye Bill Hagerty of *The People*, farewell to such luminaries as Alastair Campbell, Anne Robinson and Paul Foot. One hundred casuals were sacked, and some staff found themselves in the invidious position of having to do some work.

Actually, rather a lot of it. As the size of the staff decreased the number of pages rose. There were new sections, pullouts and inserts.

From the point of view of the City, the cost-cutting was clearly popular. From the journalistic point of view, bigger papers should have meant better. Simultaneous attempts to appeal to younger, professional people were probably correct. Swindon Woman — smart, relatively sophisticated and aspirational — replaced Andy Capp as the role model.

It might have worked if the editors had been up to it. It took Monty about 30 seconds to realise that his appointment of the amiable David Banks was a mistake, and as Banks spent more and more time at lunch with his admiring hangers-on — rather redolent of the good old, bad old days — he probably realised that he was in the wrong job as well.

The swiftness of the sackings and the undoubted fact that the new *Mirror* wasn't much better than the old one earned Montgomery a shower of opprobrium from within the trade, led by Roy Greenslade of *The Guardian*, who had been a disappointing Editor of the *Daily Mirror* during the later Maxwell years. Everybody hated Monty. Or did they?

Many of the people who worked with him on *Today* became admirers. Women profited from his patronage — Tessa Hilton went on to edit the *Sunday Mirror*, and deputise at *The Express*; Amanda Platell was latterly executive editor of *The Express on Sunday*; Juliet Ashworth is editor-in-chief of Australian *Vogue*; Jane Moore is a columnist on *The Sun*; and Sandra Parsons is features editor of this newspaper.

A Christmas card was produced to celebrate the advance of Montgomery's women staff, with them all in late-Eighties power-suited red (a spoof which Monty enjoyed hugely). He is more comfortable with women than men because, as a female contemporary put it: "He is actually extremely shy."

There are many journalists who have fond memories of the man, impressed by his leadership at *Today*, where he worked harder than most, was absolutely focused and brought out the best in staff. It must be said though that supporters are in the minority.

Ian Hargreaves, who was the best of the flurry of Editors at *The Independent* during the Mirror/O'Reilly co-ownership, was outspoken in his contempt. The staff of *The Independent* found Montgomery a useful focus for their frustration as the glory days of 400,000 circulation faded, costs rose and closure seemed imminent. Montgomery, with O'Reilly's backing, did little to win their sympathy, cutting staff and cutting again.

There was also a distinct manpower problem on the tabloids. In one astonishing spell on the *Sunday Mirror* there were four editors in as many months. Or was it five?

By the beginning of 1998 there was increasing boardroom irritation with the chief executive. Some directors were disturbed that the Mirror Group had a bad public image, others felt that Montgomery was somehow not the corporate man they wanted him to be.

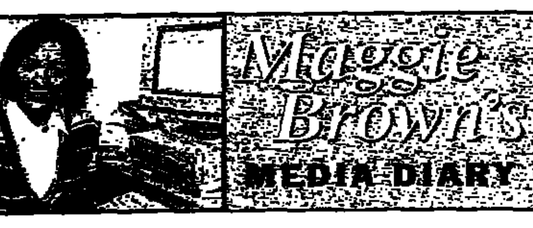
But then he was never likely to be. He is a maverick, impatient with people who don't share his convictions, reluctant to be the team player.

Right from his arrival in Fleet Street in the Seventies, he drove determinedly onward. He was impervious to the fury of his peers when he was plucked from obscurity by Nick Lloyd (later Editor of *The Express*) to become a senior executive on *The People* and then to replace him as Editor of the *News of the World*. He was equally impervious to the hatred — it's not too strong a word — he inspired when he finally reached the top.

People who remember him as the callow, hungry young man of his trainee days remember him for three things: ambition, ambition, ambition.

● *The author was night editor of* Today *in 1988-89, features editor of the* Daily Mirror, *1992-95, and night editor of* The Independent, *1996.*

News at 5, 6 or 7?



IN A hugely sensitive move, Channel 5 wants to pitch Kirsty Young into the early evening news battle. It is seeking permission to move its much feted but virtually unwatched *Channel 5 News* from 7pm to either 6pm, where Young would cheekily challenge the relaunched BBC *Six O'Clock News*, or even 5.40pm, if the Independent Television Commission regulator agrees. It would then offer audiences a replacement for ITN's popular early evening news, which ends on March 8, to make way for Trevor McDonald's new 6.30pm *Evening News* ... all the result of the controversial decision to kill off *News at Ten*.

Channel 5's news was first broadcast successfully at 8.30pm, but its shift last year to 7pm — alongside *Channel 4 News* — has been a disaster, with nightly audiences dwindling to 300,000. BBC1 must be watching nervously: the governors see it as essential to get the *Six O'Clock News* right. Kirsty Young was heavily wooed for the programme last year, but the BBC finally plumped for the personable but unknown face of Huw Edwards to carry the show ... and so many expectations and careers.

■ I HEAR that *The Guardian*'s fearless TV fraud-busters, Michael Sean Gillard and Laurie Flynn, having brought a £2 million fine down on Carlton over the fake documentary *The Connection*, are now investigating two Channel 4 documentaries. This may explain why the easy relationship that developed last year between *The Guardian* and Channel 4 seems to be cooling a bit. I am also told that Clive Jones, the managing director of Carlton (and Fern Britton's estranged husband) received consoling phone calls from the top of the BBC along the lines of "there but for the grace of God ...".

■ NEITHER David Elstein nor Dawn Airey, the top two Channel 5 executives, was available to debate on the *Today* programme yesterday with Lady Howe of Aberavon over the Broadcasting Standards Commission's attack on C5's late-night sex programming.

The clear hope is that the BSC's rebuke — Lady Howe's last stand as chairman before she steps down — will hasten the death of the watchdog organisation, which this week raised eyebrows again by describing a scene in *The Bill* in which a male rape victim was interviewed as "too emotional". But the Independent Television Commission — a regulator with teeth — is also due to censure Channel 5 next week over specific programmes on the sex trade from *Sex & Shopping*, because of their portrayal of prostitution "in a moral-free zone". This apparently breaks the duty on broadcasters to be impartial.

Carlton Television is also in hot water over its 9pm drama series *The Vice*. Last week's opening shots of a young boy in bondage/sexual torture gear, screened just after 9pm and repeated this week in a résumé, has shocked even hardened drama executives (one of them kindly sent the Diary a tape).

The programme seemed to ignore all previous ITC advice about making gradual shifts after 9pm rather than plunging down a "waterfall".

■ LAST week's Diary revelation that eight leading economists had been paid between £5,000 and £10,000 by the BBC to write chapters in the *Public Purposes in Broadcasting* book, basically supporting the licence fee, was not the whole truth — in some cases payment was at least £15,000. Throw in the costs of publishing and promotion and the BBC must have spent more than £100,000 on this ruse to defuse criticism — sorry, aid contributions to the debate.

■ *THREE weeks ago I pointed* out that the BBC, supposedly so accountable to its audiences, had failed to transmit a single *Points of View* since last August, despite viewers continuing faithfully to send in their letters of complaint. A week later I was told that it was returning, in a different form, after Easter.

Now BBC1 has been ordered to rush the programme back next month, format intact — which leaves producers scrabbling to see if Carol Vorderman can make it. A pleasing victory.



CHANNEL 5

Channel 5's sexy programmes have landed it in hot water

Jackson stays put

Michael Jackson, the chief executive of Channel 4 and one of the leading potential candidates to be the next Director-General of the BBC, has totally ruled himself out of the running for the job.

It was always unlikely that Jackson, a former Controller of BBC2 and head of BBC Broadcast, would apply directly for the Director-General's job only 18 months after taking control of Channel 4. But, in the television industry, it was thought that it might be a different matter if Jackson received a summons from Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC Chairman.

In an interview with Sky News's *Media Monthly* programme, which will be shown on Sunday, the Channel 4 chief executive unambiguously rules himself out for the BBC position.

"I think I have made it perfectly clear, both in public and internally within the channel, that I am committed to staying at Channel 4," says Jackson, who has already managed to snatch Test cricket from the BBC since his move to Channel 4.

> 'I will not accept a summons to the BBC'

Asked if he would accept a summons to the BBC, even if he did not actually apply for the job, Jackson simply replied: "I think I've made it perfectly clear that I want to stay at Channel 4 and I won't be accepting a summons to the BBC."

In the interview on Sky News, Jackson also criticises the Broadcasting Standards Commission (BSC), which attacked Channel 5 this week for showing explicit sexual content. Two years ago the BSC demanded that Channel 4 broadcast an apology for transmitting Ken Loach's film *Ladybird, Ladybird*, even though it was quite acceptable to the Independent Television Commission. The Channel 4 chief executive believes that it is now time to have a single regulator of broadcasting content so that programme-makers know where they stand.

The fact that Jackson is ruling himself out must shorten the odds on Greg Dyke, the former chief executive of London Weekend Television and chairman of Pearson Television, who also happens to be a close friend of Sir Christopher.

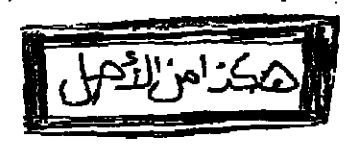
The other main external candidates for the top job in British broadcasting are David Elstein, the chief executive of Channel 5, who is mistrusted at the BBC because of his opposition to the licence fee, and Richard Eyre, the chief executive of ITV, who does not have any programme-making experience.

Meanwhile, Sky News is drawing up plans to launch its own *News at Ten* — although the exact name has not been decided yet — to coincide with the demise of the ITV news programme.

The 24-hour Sky News, part of BSkyB, an associate company of News International which owns *The Times*, is planning to create a flagship news bulletin at 10pm to try to take advantage of the news gap. The last *News at Ten* bulletin will be broadcast on March 5. After that the main ITV news programmes will be at 6.30pm and 11pm.

The man planning the new programme, which could attract additional resources, is Nick Pollard, the head of Sky News. He is a former Editor and executive producer of ITN's *News at Ten*. The preparations for a flagship news show at 10pm come as Sky News begins celebrating its tenth anniversary — it first went to air on February 5, 1989.

RAYMOND SNODDY



media times

Mellor's mediafest

The former MP is happy to be away from politics, says **Raymond Snoddy**

Try to get into David Mellor's early 19th-century Docklands house overlooking the Thames on a Thursday morning and you may have to wait. The former Cabinet minister is dictating his hand-written copy for his weekly column on football for London's *Evening Standard*.

"Do you think I should learn to type?" asks the former National Heritage Secretary. Six years after his political downfall, Mellor finds that there are not enough hours in the day to meet all his media obligations, not to mention consultancies for more than a dozen companies.

the media interview

Apart from filling a page of the *Standard* with trenchant thoughts on everything from referees to TV rights, his print outlets include a column for the *Sunday People* — ironically the paper that exposed his relationship with the actress Antonia de Sanchez — and columns for *Gramophone* and *Classic FM Magazine*.

His broadcasting interests are even more extensive. In addition to regular contributions to *CD Review* on Radio 3, the former Conservative MP for Putney presents 12 programmes a year in the *Vintage Years* series, in which he talks to a contemporary musician.

Then there is *Across the Threshold*, the Classic FM series that introduces listeners to a wider range of classical music, and *Six-O-Six*, his two-hour Saturday football phone-in on Radio 5 Live, which celebrates its sixth anniversary this month.

Charlie Whelan, the former Treasury spin-doctor, used his famous mobile phone earlier this month to call the programme to discuss his beloved Spurs. The more senior spin-doctor, Downing Street's Alastair Campbell, also called Mellor on *Six-O-Six* to celebrate when his team, Burnley, miraculously scored seven recently.

"I cannot tell you how pleasurable it is to drink from so many fountains," says Mellor, a Chelsea supporter. "How many people have the chance to be in the Cabinet and host a football chat show? I'm not saying that this is a career anyone else would want but I still get a kick out of it — and occasionally get a kick from it."

As soon as his ministerial career came to an end the telephone started ringing. The second call offered a six-week trial in the football radio hot-seat vacated by Danny Baker, who had gone off to "better himself in the world of television". Some friends suggested, rather sniffily, that talking about football was not the sort of thing Mellor should do. "I took the view that there was nothing demeaning about talking about football to an audience in the same way I would in a bar after a game," says Mellor. What would have been demeaning, he believes, is if he had become a political lobbyist, "tugging at ministers' arms in the lobby".

At first, Mellor says, radio was petrifying, much worse than appearing at the dispatch box in the Commons. Terry Wogan suggested that there was no point in trying to prepare — he would be able to do it or he wouldn't. "But I've never been afraid of the microphone and I've always thought that one of the secrets is to talk in a relaxed way to people as if the microphone was not there," says Mellor.



Newspapers and radio offered an outlet for the energies of David Mellor after his fall from grace

Apart from obvious topics such as the performances of individual teams and officials, the programme has dealt with everything from the cost of going to football to how fans are treated abroad.

"How Manchester United fans were treated in Istanbul by Turkish police was first exposed on our programme," says Mellor, who gets a total of 750,000 people listening to some part of his programme.

His interest in soccer led Tony Banks, the Sports Minister and fellow Chelsea fan, to ask him to chair the Task Force into football. It has produced reports on racism in football, on access for the disabled and most recently on trying to encourage football's "grass roots". There have been rows too. Gordon Taylor, of the Professional Footballers' Association, has accused Mellor of using the office "as an extension of his populist rabble-rousing political career". Mellor has accused Taylor of being one of the highest-paid trade union officials — presiding over idle and overpaid members.

He also feels strongly about the Office of Fair Trading case, now before the Restrictive Practices Court, which accuses the Premier League of behaving like a cartel in its TV rights deals with BSkyB — an associate company of News International, which owns *The Times* — and the BBC. Mellor, who will give evidence for the Premier League, will tell the court that 38 per cent of Leicester City's income of £6.5 million comes from the TV deal.

"Who is going to pay £6.5 million to show Leicester games?" he asks.

Mellor, 49, is grateful to the media for taking him in when he was "forced to find other outlets for my energies", and says he has no bitterness about what happened to him, apart from one thing — he is still angry that *The Sun* published what he claims to be a "total invention" — that he conducted his relationship with de Sanchez in a Chelsea strip.

Although he still describes himself as a Tory, it is far from clear whether he will stand for Parliament again. "I haven't ruled out politics but I couldn't go back as some foaming-at-the-mouth partisan," says Mellor. "I would have to go back feeling that they wanted mature people with mature opinions who believed in putting their arms around people a bit."

PR caught in the undertow

TRADE

THE PR agency Financial Dynamics has become a victim of this week's bust-up at Mirror Group and the resignation of David Montgomery, the chief executive. **PR Week** reports that the agency is to be replaced by Finsbury, whose brief will be "turning around recent negative press reports about boardroom struggles". Finsbury's clients include Great Universal Stores, whose deputy chairman Sir Victor Blank is chairman of Mirror Group. *PR Week* looks at how the current flurry of mergers and takeover bids has created lucrative opportunities for financial PR agencies, but the fate of Financial Dynamics highlights the importance of being on the winning side.

■ ITV HAS secured a 43.3 per cent share of peak viewing in the first three weeks of the year, **Broadcast** reports. This is well above last year's 37.9 per cent and the 39 per cent target for the year set by Richard Eyre, the chief executive. Eyre told advertisers and agencies that he was confident that the move of *News at Ten* would make the schedule even more competitive.

■ THE cider brand Scrumpy Jack is investing £5 million in sponsoring this year's cricket World Cup and the English Test team, **Marketing** reports. It switched to cricket from sponsoring rugby because of what Paul Butler, the marketing manager, calls "the synergy with one of England's most treasured pastimes and Scrumpy Jack, a classic English product". The deal means cider will become the Test team's official alcoholic drink.

■ CHANGING FACES, who's going where:

Jane Drabble steps down as director of education at BBC Broadcast and Production. Peter Grimsdale, commissioning editor at Channel 4, is to head factual programming for the BBC's independent commissioning group. Derrick Thomson, the acting controller of Grampian TV, becomes controller (**Broadcast**).

John Sopel, BBC political correspondent, is to become chief political correspondent for BBC News 24, replacing Huw Edwards, who goes to BBC1's *Six O'Clock News* (**Press Gazette**). Jane Bevan, head of PR at the Natural History Museum, will set up her own agency. Debbie Flynn, managing director of the travel-specialist firm Brighter PR, has bought the company from Ansdell Group (**PR Week**).

Tom Knox and Richard Warren will become joint managing directors of Delaney Fletcher Bozell in place of Mark Lund, who remains chief executive (**Campaign**).

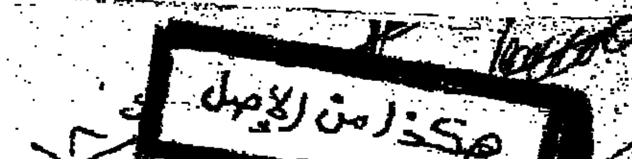
Vijay Solanki, innovations manager for Bisto Foods, is to be head of marketing at Capital FM (**Marketing**). Isobel Blackie, of Body Shop, is to be head of marketing for Carphone Warehouse, replacing Ruth Greenwood, who moves to Redwood Publishing (**Marketing Week**).

■ MOVING HOUSE, who's pitching for what:

Ben and Jerry's ice-cream seeks agency to handle £500,000 UK launch. ParcelForce Worldwide's £4 million account goes to Ammirati Puris Lintas (**Marketing**). Del Monte is reviewing its media account to prepare for big marketing push (**Media Week**).

Yorkshire Building Society hires Ludgate public affairs to help campaign against demutualisation (**PR Week**).

MICHAEL LEAPMAN



The unique power of a picture

The 1998 Picture Editors' Awards show that a whole story can be told in a moment



Spoiling for a fight: the news picture of 1998 taken by Paul Hackett, a Reuters photographer, of the chief suspects in the Stephen Lawrence murder inquiry

Study the main picture to the right and you instantly understand what the fuss over the Stephen Lawrence murder inquiry was all about. It was taken by the Reuters photographer Paul Hackett last year as the chief suspects emerged from the inquiry. As they reacted to the anger of the crowd, Hackett's photograph demonstrated what sort of men they were.

Were they innocent or guilty? Seeing this superb photograph, showing the hatred and defiance on their faces, the spoiling for a fight and the raised fists, most will know what their verdict would be. It was a photograph that confirmed or changed perceptions and which was deservedly judged news picture of the year in the 1998 Picture Editors' Awards sponsored by Kodak and Fujifilm.

Journalism is a hard game demanding quick and ruthless editorial decisions, especially during a World Cup. The irony of the award to Hackett's picture is that it made most front pages for the first edition, only to be swept aside for the "shame" of David Beckham after he committed his foul against Argentina's Diego Simeone and was sent off.

The annual awards evening allows newspaper picture editors a rare opportunity to swap gossip. There were two main themes over the drinks at Guildhall in the City of London. One was digital photography which is now arriving almost universally as was evident in the 6,000 entries from 600 photographers.

"We are seeing the end of film as we have known it, especially with the arrival of the second generation of digital cameras," says *The Mirror's* picture editor Ron Morgans, an early pioneer as the first picture editor of *Today*.

Only recently, picture editors did not get photographs of football matches until at least half-time. Now, using digital cameras, David Viggers, the Reuters picture editor, starts transmitting 11 minutes after kick-off, a crucial saving of time for editors with first edition deadlines of 8pm or 9pm.

Digital adds speed in other ways. Last week Sam Kiley, Africa correspondent of *The Times*, took his own pictures from the war zone in Sierra Leone and sent them back to London almost instantly by using his laptop and a satellite telephone.

Photographers who once had to carry scanners and developing tanks now routinely transmit pictures back to the office from their cars — all they need to do is to put the disk into their laptops, connect to their mobile phones and the pictures are on their way.

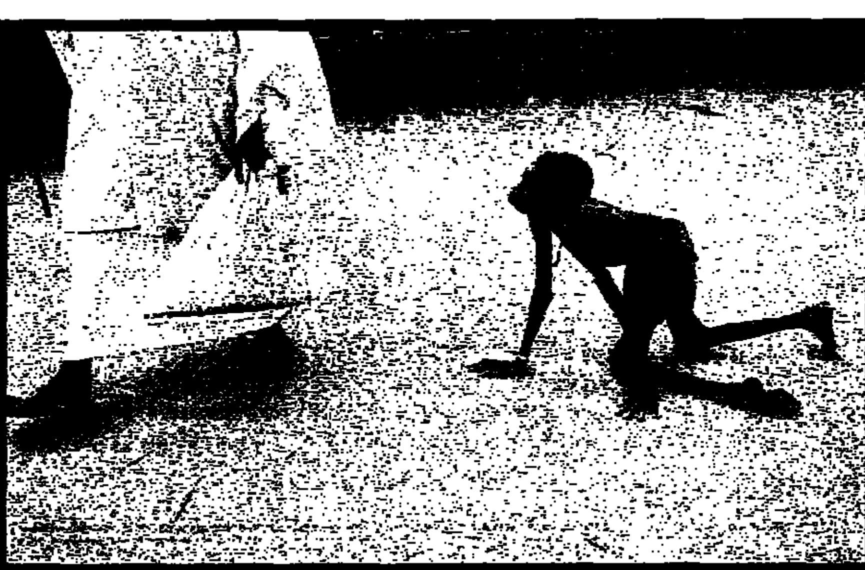
The other main theme was the slump in the number of entries for royal photographer of the year, mainly because of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, and the limitations on pictures of Prince William and Prince Harry, although *The Sun's* picture editor Geoff Webster notes that the Prince of Wales is now making more use of photo opportunities. One reason *The Times's* Marc Aspland won this year's award was that he captured an unusual moment of unorganised spontaneity. Aspland, a sports photographer, had never photographed a royal before and was not at all pleased when he was ordered to join the ratpack at Cheltenham races. He was at the back of the crowd, had to use a long lens and could only see Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's face. That meant, however, that when a jockey fell off his horse he captured a rarely seen fit of giggles.

Marc Aspland's winning shot

Brian MacArthur

Black and white photography may now be out of fashion but as Tom Stoddart's haunting picture from Sudan (using a Leica M6) demonstrates, it still tells a dramatic story. Stoddart, a Fleet Street veteran, now works for the Independent Photographers' Group and lives by his wits. He sent himself to Sudan and worked with Médecins sans Frontières.

The portfolio that won him the black and white award was used in *The Guardian* and on nine pages of *Stern*, ten of *Le Figaro* and five of *US News and World Report*. Within eight hours of publication in *The Guardian*, there were 1,200 calls and £40,000 was raised. As Stoddart says, still images retain their power to move. Old-fashioned photo-journalism still works. It is an old lesson that new editors should not forget.



Haunting image: Tom Stoddart's award-winning picture of famine in Sudan

For hacks and cats only

THE great fragmentation of media over the past two decades has left journalists with many more column inches and broadcast minutes to fill. There is no more real news, of course, which explains this week's astonishing coverage of the new Whiskas ad.

Wednesday's lunchtime television news, *News at Ten*, a full page in the *Evening Standard*, endless radio talk shows, yesterday's nationals — you have to hand it to Whiskas's ad agency, M&C Saatchi and the Mars PR machine.

In case you missed it, the Whiskas commercial was spun as the first ad aimed at cats. Apparently, Mars brought in cat behavioural experts to determine what gets cats excited, and decided it would forbear targeting owners in favour of their pets.

Maurice Saatchi's new agency then devised a charming campaign: a teaser ad early in the break asks cat owners to ensure that their pets are watching. There follows a procession of fish, mouse and bird shapes, and shots of a ball of string — anything that ever got a cat excited. Apparently, cats will go barmy.

Britain's news editors certainly have. It is bizarre that journalists, notoriously reluctant to help or even to fraternise with the advertising sales people working for their own organisations, are happy to conspire in cynical campaigns such as this.

But when you're staring at white space, or two minutes of empty airtime, a story is a story — however manufactured.

■ THE Whiskas campaign is a fine example of PR, advertising and hapless journalists working together to promote a brand. But there have been many recent occasions when advertising appeared powerless to improve an image in the face of negative PR.

Hot on the heels of British beef, the millennium, *The Express* and nursing recruitment comes news of a £15 million campaign being planned to encourage more people to save regularly, take out life insurance and join pension schemes. The surprise is that the advertisers funding the Savings and Long-Term Risk Project (SLTRP) are banks and insurance companies who are usually deadly rivals.

Headed by Sandy Leitch, the UK chairman of Zurich Financial Services, the SLTRP is working under the auspices of the Association of British Insurers. The aim is less to direct consumers to any particular form of investment than to encourage financial literacy and awareness.

Stefano Hatfield

An admirable project, you might think, although hardly altruistic. But it could easily backfire. It has been reported this week that the Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society has been fined by the Personal Investment Authority and could be forced to pay £10 million in compensation to 50,000 customers who may have been mis-sold ten-year endowment savings schemes. All it takes is for those new financially literate and aware consumers to be confronted by coverage of one more pensions mis-selling case, and it will be £15 million a year down the drain for the scheme.

■ SAD news this week that Body Shop is to scale back manufacturing and axe jobs. The Roddicks are being pushed ever farther into the background by Patrick Gournay, the chief executive brought in from Danone.

This is another case (after Marks & Spencer last week) of a retailer that might have benefited from more investment in advertising. For years, the Roddicks appeared to regard media ads as another form of pollution. They have only really dabbled with it in the past three years — too little, too late.

In the 1980s, Body Shop had a point of difference worth shouting about, but when rivals appeared and the likes of Boots cottoned on to "natural" ranges, it needed to reassert its specialness to a new generation. It chose not to do so. Those consumers voted with their feet.

A big advertising campaign is the last thing that Body Shop needs now, though. First, it has to address the wider marketing picture: its philosophy, its product range and the in-store experience of its customers.

■ REGULAR readers will be aware of the two-year dispute between Equity and the commercials production industry. This week Equity capitulated, lifting a ban on its members accepting voiceover work unless under the terms of a 1991 agreement.

The actors' union had little choice. Only 15 per cent of about 15,000 voiceover engagements made between May 1997 and October 1998 were conducted under Equity's terms. Agencies pay well, and there was never going to be a shortage of non-Equity members willing to step into the breach. Eventually, many union members broke ranks. It is an entirely predictable conclusion to the dispute. Proof, in case you had any doubt, that in advertising, money talks.

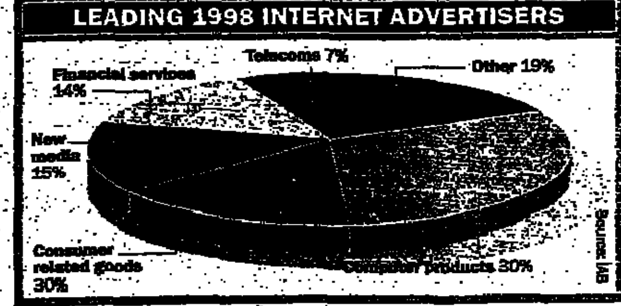
● *Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of* Campaign

media watch

ALTHOUGH the Internet is perhaps perceived primarily as a source of entertainment, information and communication, recent research suggests that commercial use is about to take off.

Findings by Continental Research show that home Internet use doubled in the past 12 months, to five million users by the end of 1998. Another 2.3 million home users and 1.9 million users in the workplace are expected to sign up within the next six months.

Although the reasons people go online vary, 43 per cent cited shopping as the main incentive. The value of total online sales for 1998 is estimated at £230 million. One of the latest reports from Fletcher Research predicts that by 2003 the online shopping market will be worth £3.1 billion.



The creation of strong online brands could prove to be the right incentives for customers. In light of this, revenue from advertising on the Internet increased massively during the first six months of 1998, according to the Internet Advertising Bureau, totalling £7.9 million compared with £8.1 million in the whole of 1997.

The relationship between consumer spending and advertising has always been impossible to pin down, but it is perhaps significant that computer products accounted for most advertising revenue during the first two quarters of 1998, as well as by far the biggest area of consumer spending.

● *MediaTel's online media information and analysis service is accessed via the Internet at http://www.medlatel.co.uk (0171-439 7575)*



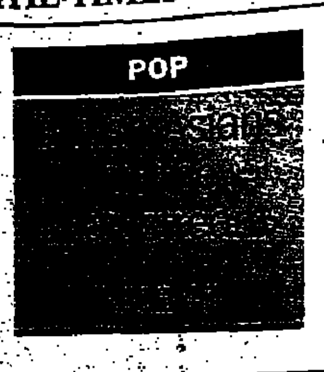
COMEDY

The mundane and hilarious Mr Shuttleworth

PAGE 45

THE TIMES ARTS

POP





We'll miss the Arts Council when it's gone

As T.S. Eliot observed, the end usually comes not with a bang but a whimper. Yes, I know he was writing about something slightly more central to human existence than the Arts Council of England. But watching the power, the *raison d'être* and even the staff drain away from that sad quango has indeed been akin to observing a much-abused mule whimper in its terminal throes.

What is Gerry Robinson playing at? The Arts Council's chairman is no fool or fall-guy, so one can only assume that he was appointed by Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, to do precisely what he is doing: demolishing from the inside an organisation that may have been flawed but did at least have a long and admirable tradition of being politically impartial.

Consider the revolving-door action since the Granada chief arrived at the Arts Council nine months ago. First, the 22 council members were stood down, to be replaced by just ten decorative faces such as the dancer Deborah Bull and pianist Joanna MacGregor. Result? A ruling body mostly unencumbered by awkward memories of what the Arts Council was supposed to be, and to do.

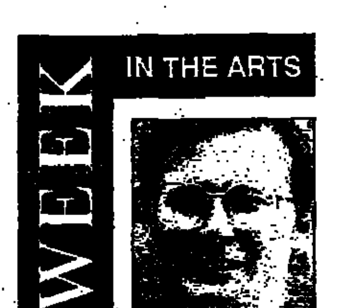
Next, the unpaid expert advisers were cut off from decision-making. The theatre panel, led by the redoubtable Thelma Holt, resigned en masse. She spoke of the Arts Council's new "contempt towards artists". Lady MacMillan, chief luminary of the dance panel, also spoke out and walked out.

The music world was more timid in its protests, but last week all that changed. Britain's orchestras launched a savage attack on the Arts Council for treating world-class outfits such as the LSO and CBSO like provincial bands, while at the same time handing the errant Royal Opera House a handsome increase in subsidy.

Then came the patter of departing feet — many of them. The music director, Kathryn McDowell, the only Arts Council apparatchik for decades to win friends in the orchestral world, has resigned. Graham Marchant, who was supposed to be masterminding the "devolution" of most Arts Council responsibilities to regional arts boards, departed abruptly less than six months after arriving.

And this week Phil Murphy, a former political journalist who was given the preposterous title of "director of communications" at the Arts Council, also quit. During his few months in office his main achievement was ghost-writing Robinson's infamous inaugural lecture as Arts Council chairman, a speech that included a tribute to Chris Smith that was effusive even by the fawning standards of Labour groupies. "Good grief," I wrote at the time. "Why don't they just merge the Arts Council with the Government's PR machine?"

WEEK IN THE ARTS



RICHARD MORRISON

Well, guess what? Murphy's new job is to be head of communications for the Labour Party. The lad certainly knows how to play the game in Tonyland, doesn't he?

Where does all this leave the Arts Council? Bereft of experienced staff, shorn of power, it now faces a challenge from Quest, a sinister new peeping-tom quango that will "monitor standards and efficiency" in the arts and answer directly to Smith's Culture Department. It's hard not to conclude that the Arts Council has been deliberately reduced to this pointless existence by a Government that wants hands-on control of the arts and no focus of resistance to its wishes.

What does that matter, you may ask, as long as the artists themselves retain their freedom of expression? After all, the rest is mere bureaucratic detail, isn't it?

Alas, I wish it were that innocuous. But the notion of politicians controlling which artists get subsidy is dangerous at the best of times, and particularly so when the politicians are as renowned for rewarding cronies as this lot are. Already there is a notable reluctance in the arts world to speak out in public against any government policy for fear of reprisal. Yes, it's pathetic. But it explains why the Arts Council is disappearing not with a bang but a whimper.

One of music's most humane figures died this week. Robert Shaw was probably the greatest choral conductor of this century. His impeccably trained choirs — built up in a career that spanned six decades — thrilled even that grumpy old perfectionist Toscanini. Singers in Georgia and Texas thought nothing of driving hundreds of miles each week to attend his rehearsals, which frequently took on the burning intensity of revivalist prayer meetings.

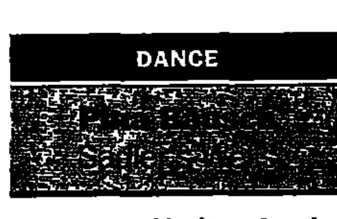
But he was much more than an inspiring musician. He was a courageous idealist, establishing choirs with no racial barriers several decades before it was politically correct, or safe, to do so. And — like Britten in Suffolk or, more recently, Rattle in Birmingham and James MacMillan in Glasgow — he was a superb missionary for music at the grass roots. He believed that top-notch performers, writers and artists had a civic duty to become role models, intellectual leaders and catalysts of the cultural life in their communities.

"The most important thing in the arts is your own backyard," he once told me. "Unless artists work their way into the community fabric they are not being fully used."

At a time when people in Ankara, Anchorage and Andover all watch the same films, listen to the same pop albums and flick listlessly through the same television sitcoms, such idiosyncratic parochialism may seem quaint and outdated. But if the alternative is a bland homogenisation of culture into one dreary global custard, give me quaint any day.

Cabaret of the insane

DANCE



The buzz inside a sold-out Sadler's Wells and the lengthy queue for returns outside were proof, if such were needed, that in the world of the theatre the German choreographer Pina Bausch is a goddess. It has been 17 years since her last visit to London and the faithful were determined to worship at the feet of the most influential dance-theatre artist in Europe.

Viktor, the 1986 work she brings to London (with the help of BMW Group), is a showcase for Bausch the director, not Bausch the choreographer. In a production that lasts three and a half hours there are scant minutes of dance. Yet these moments are thrillingly vibrant. Bausch animates her large ensemble in waves of witty and thrusting movements that embody perfectly the dream-like images she seeks to portray. Movement is the exclamation point, the glorious adjective that pulls her ideas into tight focus.

And focus is something Bausch needs. She doesn't build theatre in a progressive narrative sense; rather she spews it out in a brilliantly conceived stream of consciousness, constructing a collage of strong feelings acted out in a kind of marathon revue performed by insane dolls. Text, dance and everyday movement combine in an obsessively repeating patchwork of anger, frustration and futility — her take on the human condition.

The liberation of *Viktor* is that it's not about anything, yet the emotions it creates touch everyone in a most personal way. The suffocation of *Viktor* is that it drowns you in an excess of emotion, circling round itself as if caught in a narcissistic loop. Get sucked into Bausch's universe and you will be hooked for hours; lose it and you will suffer interminable boredom.

The piece is set on a magnificently designed stage (credit: Peter Pabst). On three sides loom towering walls of earth. It could be a giant playground in a post-apocalyptic wasteland; it could be an ant-hill magnified into a mountain; or it could be a freshly dug grave.

The 30-strong company play their parts seemingly unaware of the man above who is shovelling earth down onto the stage. The dancers are manipulated by Bausch like unwitting puppets: she condemns them to a Sisyphus-like existence, locking them into emphatically repetitive acts which they perform with a manic enthusiasm. An hysterical man sobs for coffee; a harried woman glances with horror at her watch and races off to a mysterious appointment; one woman is groomed like a horse while another, in a sequinned dress, washes the floor. The game is sometimes wearying, as is Bausch's endless fascination with the accoutrements of female glamour — high heels, fur coats, tight skirts, lipstick — yet her work is shot through with a compensating compassion. Finally, it is the magnificent actor-dancers who make Bausch's case, each a unique presence on stage. They may be crazy, they may be senseless, they may be doomed, but as rats in the laboratory of Bausch's mind they are undoubted stars.

DEBRA CRAINE

DEE CONWAY



Puppets in a crazy universe: the dancers of Pina Bausch's company, Tanztheater Wuppertal, in *Viktor*

A fresh take on togetherness

THEATRE



Character A slobs in a chair reading the sports pages. Character B stalks irritably in. They talk about making tea, walking the dog, how to spend the evening. "All right we'll stay in," says B in huffy, martyred tones. "You'll read the paper. I'll watch telly. I'll read the paper and you'll watch the telly, then we'll both watch the telly. And you won't say anything."

A sardonic picture of suburban wedded bliss? Not exactly. A is Peter Sullivan's slightly yobbish Tony, and B is Andrew Lancel's wincingly dissatisfied Andrew. Like the other six "young men" at the Almeida, they belong to what I would call the gay community, were that not a term that the author, Peter Gill, calls into question. Give or take the occasional yearning to have children or be conventionally "male", they have plenty in common with heterosexuals — and plenty out of common with each other.

The play is marked by a fast turnover of scenes, lots of brusque, vivid, wryly funny dialogue, fine acting, and the spare staging one associates with its director, who is also Peter Gill. On come John Light's nervy, bookish Michael, and his pick-up, Alec Newman's rough, streetwise Stewart. Then it's over to Jeremy Northam's sensitive, possessive David and Andrew Woodall's Christopher, a married man angry at just about everything, down to his wife's wish to send their son to a school "for very gifted parents".

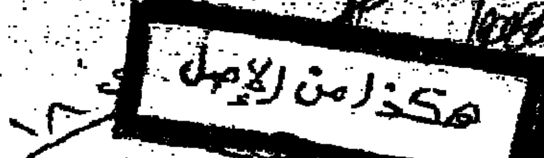
Andrew and Tony complete the bill, along with two unattached characters: Sean Chapman as the play's resident raisonneur, guru or Gill, Danny Dyer as a dim, needy boy drifter who prefers fellatio with men rather than women because men is more industrious".

Though Chris has a fling on the side, and Andrew leaves Tony, the play is less strong on action than on argument, confrontation, rows that sometimes escalate into violence. These men are always strenuously trying to define what their relationships should and shouldn't be.

"Are we supposed to behave like some couple?" asks exasperated Christopher. "We're faking the stupidities of a fake straight relationship," decides distressed Andrew. "This isn't a marriage," snaps Tony. True — but if they aren't married, a couple, or pseudo-straight, what are they?

The answer inevitably comes from Robert. There is no "gay sensibility". Homosexuals uncategorisably range from quiet suits to "disco dollies" to raging radicals publicly "nailing their foreskins to pieces of wood" and beyond. A relationship means finding "someone to share the torture with". Some will find the message too explicit or too depressing or both; but not I. The least that can be said for *Certain Young Men* (sponsored by AT&T) is that it is articulate, arresting and as freshly performed as anything in town.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Heads you lose, Charles ...

GALLERIES:

An anniversary celebration reveals early spin-doctoring, says **John Russell Taylor**

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II



The slightly melancholic expression in Van Dyck's triple portrait of 1635 confers an air of tragic majesty on Charles I even 14 years before his execution

Though the blame for image-manipulation and "spin" is generally placed on the shoulders of the late 20th-century, you don't need to penetrate history very thoroughly to realise that these black arts have been with us since the dawn of time.

Anyone who doubts this should check out *The King's Head*, the new show at the Queen's Gallery. The King in question is Charles I, and the occasion of the show is the 350th anniversary of his execution, which falls tomorrow.

Other monarchs, of course, went in for image-building. Louis XIV, for instance, was a genius at angling his image to centralise France under his personal rule. And as the recent film pointed out, the secret of Elizabeth I's power was her deliberate reconstituting of herself as a Virgin Queen and untouchable icon.

With Charles, though, things are not so clear-cut. For one thing he was beheaded — deservedly, his Roundhead opponents said; as a holy martyr according to his surviving Cavalier supporters. Both sides used visual imagery to validate their points of view, and there was a veritable war of broadsheets and pamphlets, frequently illustrated with suitable images of the monarch — although it hardly seems to have occurred to any of the opposition to use caricature in the way that satirists of the Georges would.

Of one thing we seem to be in no doubt, and that is what Charles looked like. The engraved portraits, however crude and debased, are all agreed on the principal features, and in fact mostly go back to just two or three painted portraits, particularly the definitive images by Van Dyck. The existence of these latter came about through Charles's eagerness, early in his reign, to impose a picture of himself on the public, and his good sense in employing an artist of Van Dyck's skill and stature to brand that image on the public imagination.

This even applied to the representation of the King by another first-rate artist: Bernini, whose bust of Charles dates from 1635. In carrying out Queen Henrietta Maria's commission, Bernini depended for his likeness on Van Dyck's triple portrait *Charles I in Three Positions*, now one of the most famous pieces in the Royal Collection, but virtually unknown until the early 19th century.

Van Dyck not only fixed the image of Charles I for ever, but in the process changed the whole British portrait tradition. One can physically see the moment of change in the double portrait of Charles and Henrietta Maria painted by Daniel Mytens in 1630-32, and later transformed by Van Dyck, who completely repainted the figure of the Queen on the right. There is no doubt that Van Dyck was required to make the unprepossessing original image of the Queen (preserved in print reproductions and an early copy of the painting) into something decidedly more glamorous. He might also have modified the picture of the King, who under Mytens's brush looks slightly sneery, into the noble, faintly sad figure of later portraits, but for some reason he did not.

It may be suspected that hindsight confers this air of tragic majesty on Charles as painted by Van Dyck and engraved by Hollar. But apparently not. Bernini observed, when he saw the Van Dyck triple portrait made specifically as documentation for him, that the King seemed to have a slightly melancholy aspect. The Bernini bust (destroyed in the Whitehall Palace fire of 1698) appears from the early copy in the exhibition to have retained this melancholy, but to have balanced it with a Baroque swagger. If this Charles does not look particularly like a saint, he could quite possibly turn out to be a martyr.

The question of whether, strictly speaking, he did or not is understandably sidestepped by the present exhibition. But then, even Charles's enemies seem to have given credit to a gallant loser: remember Marvell's "He nothing common did or mean Upon that memorable Scene". Clearly in spite of everything the heroic image stuck: nowhere here would we get the slightest inkling that Charles I was the shortest English monarch (while his son Charles II was, oddly, the tallest). Even in the 17th century, the opposition did not stoop to remarking on the plight of the vertically challenged.

Indeed, perhaps the show could do with a little more scurrility. After all, isn't the point about the English Civil War surely that the Roundheads were right but repulsive, while the Cavaliers were romantic but wrong?

● *The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, SW1 (0171-839 1377), daily 9.30am-4.30pm, until May 3*

Thoughts of Sheffield man

COMEDY

Ken's Karvery
Bloomsbury

We all know a John Shuttleworth; he's one of those blokes from back home who are always happy to chat for a while and share the intimate details of the new back route they discovered while trying to avoid a traffic jam. A bit of a card but totally humourless, he's one of life's last great optimists with a vocabulary derived from *Which?* magazine and those little paper inserts that come wrapped around bottles of prescription medicine.

But John Shuttleworth has got something a bit more to him, something a bit special, and that's showbiz. Not only is he a keen student of acting; a skill derived from years of first-hand experience watching television; but he is also regular organist at Ken's Karvery, whither we are cordially invited to stuff ourselves silly on John's Bon Tempi buffet.

Shuttleworth's creator, Graham Fellows, has constructed an impeccably believable character, and his portrayal of the earnest Yorkshireman is as affectionate as it is comic. Funny as much of the material is, there are brief moments when one realises that Fellows is playing on our arrogance and tendency to patronise the non latte-drinking, non CD-playing, non e-mail-using elements of this world.

John Shuttleworth is precynical man par excellence. He can't stop himself from using every available function on his electronic keyboard, just because they're there. He's proud of his Austin Ambassador Y-reg — "it's a car that I revere"; and when he tells us that his friend Tony dreams of being a paramedic, he thinks for a minute, then says: "Mind you, who doesn't — lovely!"

Of course, for the customers at the Karvery, it's the songs that we've come to hear; Ken Worthington may be battling it out with a Primus stove backstage trying to prepare our starter, but we won't feel satisfied until we've heard such bathetic classics as *Life is Like a Salad Cart (You only get one visit)*, *I Want To Be a Community Leader* and *I'm a Modern Man, I Do the Washing Up: Apart From the Frying Pan (Because that's best left to soak, isn't it?)*.

In the harsh modern world, John Shuttleworth is a character to be cherished; polite, positive, charming and still convinced that Sheffield is the centre of the modern world (although he might consider moving to Skegness for the right cash incentive). I have never been to a show that has inspired the audience to throw Toffee Crisp bars on to the stage at the end, but then, there are precious few comedians who could come out with a line like "It's like that millennium bug is in my organ" without even a whiff of double entendre, so he probably deserves it.

HETTIE JUDAH

Strategic mismatch

CONCERTS

One thing the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra does not need, as it struggles for financial survival, is a programme as ineffective as Petr Altrichter's latest compilation. Of course, if he wants to perform Martinu's Rhapsody-Concerto for viola and orchestra, and if he has access to the soloist for it, he should do it. But an unfamiliar work like that has to be presented in a persuasive context rather than in the uninformed kind of jumble that the public instinctively recognises and avoids.

The work would have been strategically better placed before the interval rather than at the end, and it could usefully have been preceded by another work written by a Czech composer in America, like Dvorák's American Suite. If Tabea Zimmermann was to perform another concerto, rather than a faceless number by one of the numerous Stamitz family it should have been, say, Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante with the RLPO leader as joint soloist. After the Mozart, Brahms's Serenade in A major, with its prominent role for orchestral violas, would have made an appropriate ending.

Anyway, what the sparse audience in the Philharmonic Hall actually heard at the beginning of the concert was Dvorák's Wind Serenade in D minor, which was acceptably performed but contextually pointless. The Mozart they got after the interval was the "Paris" Symphony in D, K 297, which was brightly done but — given Altrichter's exaggerated signals to an orchestra that only needs to be conducted — with little chance of subtlety in interpretation. Zimmermann's playing in Karl Stamitz's Viola Concerto in D was too highly coloured and elaborated for the modest score it really is.

The Rhapsody-Concerto, on the other hand, found both soloist and conductor at their best. Although it betrays in its later stages Martinu's characteristic impatience to get on with the next work in the catalogue, and although it is fairly shapeless in construction, it is redolent with melodious nostalgia. Zimmermann's elegiac sound, Altrichter's identification with Martinu's Czech sentiments and the RLPO's sensitivity in accommodating itself to both of them combined to inspire affection of a kind rarely associated with this composer.

GERALD LARNER

First prize for charm



When the American baritone Marcus DeLoach walked off with the first prize at the first Wigmore Hall International Song Competition in 1997, it was clear that the jury and audience had been impressed as much with his skills of communication and showmanship as with his musical artistry. After all, he beat a busily employed English opera singer and a young German Lieder specialist.

And it was DeLoach's love of his audience which won the day again when he returned to London to give his debut prizewinning recital. His wooing was shameless in his encores: having discovered that Henry Higgins lived just round the corner from the Wigmore Hall, he regaled his audience with *On the street where you live*; then went on to patter about lying awake with a dismal headache in highly polished Gilbert and Sullivan English.

Before this DeLoach had repeated one of his prizewinning songs, Aaron Copland's *I bought me a cat*, at the end of an entertaining group of less well-known American pieces. Copland's contemporary, Randall Thompson, was introduced by his *Velvet Shoes*, the voice treading a hymn-like path through white snow and white silence. And Charles Ives's *The greatest man* was preceded by a little-known song by Richard Hageman: a mock-heroic setting of G.K. Chesterton's *The Donkey*.

In all these songs DeLoach worked overtime to kindle some response in a rather solemn audience. They had been charmed by five songs by Chausson which had gone before. Here DeLoach's clearly focused, effortlessly inflected baritone, with its ringing high register, had confirmed his sympathy for and ease in the French repertoire.

But if DeLoach's vocal concentration had been matched by closer verbal focus, then these songs and especially his preceding Mendelssohn group would have been twice as eloquent. Despite Thomas Bagwell's vivid accompanying, DeLoach's German tends to sound learnt by rote: verbal and musical rhythm is too laid-back, and weak vowels make for weak expression. DeLoach is just 24, and only three years out of Juilliard. He has been busy on the boards at St Louis; but there is still time for more intensive coaching in Lieder, and perhaps some time out spent exploring Germany or Austria with his prize money.

HILARY FINCH

■ LISTINGS

Haitink at the Festival Hall

ARTS

■ POP INTERVIEW

Tequila with Terrorvision

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: Bernard Haitink conducts the LPO in Mozart's Jupiter Symphony followed by Bartok's eerie one-acter Duke Bluebeard's Castle. With Ildiko Komlosi as the fated Judith and Kolos Kovats as her sinister nobleman husband. **Festival Hall** (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

PICASSO AND PHOTOGRAPHY: The Dark Mirror: An exhibition exploring the influence of photography on the development of the Cubist artist. Over 300 items including self-portraits, landscapes and experimental works are on show, as are a number of related paintings and drawing. **Barbican Art Gallery** (0171-638 8891). Opens today.

BEETHOVEN CYCLE : Louis Lortie continues his series of recitals performing all Beethoven's piano sonatas. Here the Canadian virtuoso tackles a programme which includes Sonatas in D (*Pastoral*) and C (*Moonlight*). **Wigmore Hall** (0171-935 2141). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

Photos by Picasso go on show at the Barbican

ELSEWHERE

EDINBURGH: The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Takuo Yuasa gives an atmospheric performance of Bruckner's magnificent Sixth Symphony. **Greyfriars Kirk** (0131-668 2019). Tonight, 7.45pm.

MANCHESTER: Hector Zaraspe choreographes his troupe of Argentinian dancers in Tango Pasion, a lush performance of emotionally charged sensuality. **Bridgewater Hall** (0161-907 9000). Sunday, 4pm and 7.30pm.

OXFORD: The brilliant young Russian pianist Boris Berezovsky lays on a musical banquet of three large Romantic pieces from his native land. On the menu are Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition and Night on a Bare Mountain, and Rachmaninov's Variations on a Theme of Chopin. **Sheldonian Theatre** (01865 798600). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only ◩ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

◩ **THE FOREST:** Alan Ayckbourn adapts Ostrovsky's sardonic 1870 comedy, with Michael Feast's impoverished actor trying to impress his rich aunt (Frances de la Tour). Anthony Page directs. **Lyttelton** (0171-452 3000).

◩ **OKLAHOMA!:** National Theatre cast includes Maureen Lipman in transfer of Trevor Nunn's Rodgers and Hammerstein. **Lyceum** (0171-416 6099).

□ **BAD WEATHER:** Robert Holman's discursive play where a French nanny (Susan Engel) resolves some problems in a Middlesbrough tower block. Odd yet haunting. **Pit** (0171-638 8891).

□ **THE MEMORY OF WATER:** Alison Steadman, Samantha Bond and Julia Sawalha star in Shelagh Stephenson's acclaimed drama of family memories. Terry Johnson directs. **Vaudeville** (0171-836 9987).

□ **THE STREET OF CROCODILES:** Welcome return for Theatre de Complicite's inventive staging of Bruno Schulz's magical recollections of pre-Nazi Poland **Queens** (0171-494 5041)

□ **VASSA:** Sheila Hancock heads a terrific cast, playing the family matriarch in Gorky's strong drama. Howard Davies directs a new version for the Almeida season. **Albery** (0171-369 1730).

□ **BRIEF CANDLE:** Denis Quilley plays various European celebrities who fell for the charms of young Marie Bash-kirtseff (Celia White) in the 1880s and figured in her posthumously published diaries. Stella Quilley directs. **New End** (0171-794 0022)

□ **CERTAIN YOUNG MEN:** Peter Gill directs Jeremy Northam, Sean Chapman and six others in his exploration of the way today's men live together **Almeida Theatre** (0171-359 4404).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15): Ripping yarn about the struggling, upstart William Shakespeare, with a cracking script by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard. Gwyneth Paltrow excels as the Bard's cross-dressing muse. John Madden directs.

STEPMOM (12): Squelchy divorce movie with Julia Roberts as the hapless new woman in Ed Harris's life, and Susan Sarandon as the terminally ill ex-wife. The two spoilt kids, Jena Malone and Ian Aiken, give it a high Kleenex rating. Relentlessly sincere movie by Chris Columbus.

VERY BAD THINGS (18): Peter Berg's macabre comedy thriller satirises buddy movies and smug suburban lifestyles by chopping up half the cast. Demonic peformances from Christian Slater and Cameron Diaz.

TWO GIRLS AND A GUY (15): Robert Downey Jr plays a charming creep who strings along Natasha Wagner and Heather Graham. James Toback's chamber piece on sexual fidelity promptly falls on its sword when both girls fall to crucify him.

A MAN AND A WOMAN (PG): Claude Lelouch's whimsical French seaside romance won two Oscars in 1966. Apart from the soulful performances of Anouk Aimée and Jean-Louis Trintignant, its hard to see why.

CURRENT

HILARY AND JACKIE (15): Anand Tucker's controversial biopic about the late Jacqueline du Pré. With Emily Watson and Rachel Griffiths.

PRACTICAL MAGIC (12): Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman star as witches in a gothic soap about sisters with fatal attraction. Too sweet to digest.

BULWORTH (18): Warren Beatty's disillusioned senator suddenly discovers a taste for telling ugly home truths. A wonderful new comic spin on political manipulation and mendacity.

If ever there was a rock band born to have a huge hit single with a song called *Tequila*, it's Terrorvision

Lads in the best of spirits

All together, now: "Tequila! It makes me . . . happy! Con tequila it feela . . . fine! Con tequila when the doors are opened, and con tequila *when they're calling 'Time'*. That's the curse of tequila."

The lyrics to the week's No 2 single aren't just idle conjecture or rock-star faffing: the Bradford four-piece Terrorvision speak from a position of academic knowledge. It was tequila that led to lead singer Tony Wright breaking both his ankles in Madrid.

Apparently the Hard Rock Café there has a particularly covetable H in its neon sign and, while scaling the building in an attempt to detach the letter, Wright fell and snapped both his ankles.

"I thought I was safe," he ex-



CAITLIN MORAN

plains, "because I was attached to the 'H' and the 'H' was attached to the building. I didn't realise that it would no longer be attached to the building if I removed it."

Tequila wasn't going to be a single, but following a concerted campaign by Zoë Ball on the Radio 1 Breakfast Show, its Fatboy Slim-esque remix is now a palpable hit, and will appear on stag night compilation tapes and Friday night jukeboxes from now until God calls "Time". Given that they would have been No 1 if Offspring's grungey *Pretty Fly (For A White Guy)* hadn't pipped them in the race for the post, it's magnanimous of Terrorvision not to hold any grudge against their American rivals.

"Well, no. I like *Pretty Fly* myself," Wright muses. "If it were Cher or somebody like that I'd be right cheesed off, but it feels right that it should be us and them. I can't remember the last time two rock bands were together at the top of the charts. It doesn't happen that often. It's like the total eclipse of the Sun or something, innit? People travel to see it."

Ensconced in a smug, flashy West London hotel, recovering from the previous night's *NME* party, the band are wryly enjoying fame's accoutrements. "I can't remember a time I was so drunk as last night," Wright says — something you feel must be quite a statement in his case. "People kept giving us tequila."

"We don't know why," guitarist Mark Yates says, looking bewildered.

"We ended up at Space's hotel, and I still don't know how," Wright continues. "I woke up and there was blood all over the sheets. It had come out of my nose. I think my pillows were very hard."

It's been a long, hard, enjoyable slog for Terrorvision. They reflect nostalgically on the early days of the group, when they used to meet on Tuesdays and pool their pay cheques to pay for rehearsal time. "We all used to put £15 in the kitty, and if there was anything left, we'd spend it down the pub," Yates recalls.

"The pub is underestimated as a place of learning. For instance," he says, leaning across the table, "if you get a piece of liver, and put it on a plate in the fridge near to a glass of milk, in the morning the liver will have moved, of its own accord, next to the milk. Now, where else are you going to learn that but from a productive night down the pub?"

"Carol Vorderman would never tell you that," Leigh Marklew, the band's golfing bassist, points out. "Or any of them *Watchdog* people."

Terrorvision are everything a band should be: aside from their infectious, AC/DC-meets-Madness pop, they're familiar enough with the concept of Holding Down Proper Jobs to realise that being in a band is a hoot, and so in love with rock's Hanna Barbera logic that they try to make every gig an event.

On *Tequila*, Wright explains, beginning a very long anecdote, "we got a load of schoolchildren to do the backing vocals. Our producer Edwyn Collins got six of his daughter's schoolmates for the 'Tequila! It makes me happy!' bit.

"But we obviously can't get those children to tour with us — the amount of pop they drink would cripple us financially. So we were thinking about getting six girls from the audience to join us onstage every night, chosen in the Willy Wonka Way."

"What's the Willy Wonka Way?" Shutty, the drummer, asks obligingly.

"Glad you asked me, Shutty," Wright says. "The Willy Wonka Way is to issue six special Gold Tickets, and whoever has them can take their place onstage with us, as that night's Terrorvision Tequila Girls. They'll get to shout 'Tequila' and everything down a microphone. If I'd been allowed to do that when I was 16, I'd have been made up."

Given that Terrorvision have three albums of bouncy, infectious rifferama under their belts, as well as the hit singles *Oblivion*, with its doo-wop hook, and *Perseverance*, where Wright hollers about the "Whales and dolphins", are they a little peeved at being now known as the *Tequila* band?

"Gerroff. Are you joking?" Yates responds, boggle-eyed. "It's brilliant! We've been made honorary members of the Tequila Society: they meet every Thursday in Leeds and drink 250 bottles in a night. And these are our people now. We feel right special."

"You never really get tired of tequila, anyway," Marklew adds, sagely. "It may treat you bad in the mornings, but you always come back to it. Like a bad but exciting lover. Tequila will never lose its allure for me."

● Tequila *is released by EMI/Total Vegas records, as is the album,* Shaving Peaches

Terrorvision are honoured to have been made members of the Tequila Society: "They meet every Thursday in Leeds and drink 250 bottles in a night"

Well-matched pair

JAZZ ALBUMS

■ **MARC JOHNSON AND ERIC LONGSWORTH**
If Trees Could Fly
(Intuition INT 3228 2)

IN THE notes accompanying this duo album Marc Johnson identifies his chief artistic aim as "transcending the stereotypes that are often associated with our instruments". Given that these are bass and, in Eric Longsworth's case, the electric cello, it is easy to sympathise; it is, nevertheless, an aim achieved by the rich and emotive music on the album.

Longsworth is a Canadian with a classical background, but his wide-ranging solo concerts have won him many admirers. Here he employs an extraordinary variety of techniques, from vigorous bowing through propulsive strumming to the most delicate of plucked accompaniment, to produce sounds and textures that can resemble everything from ebullient country hoedown to plangent Maghrebi oud music. Johnson, whether in robust soloing mode or playing his more accustomed solid supportive role, matches Longsworth for both imagination and energy, and the album's beguiling overall sound is a tribute to the versatility and vision of both men.

■ **CAROLINE TAYLOR QUINTET**
For the Moment
(CMT Music CMTCDS42)

AN AMERICAN, resident in the UK since 1986, Caroline Taylor grew up listening to Benny Goodman, Bix Beiderbecke and Fats Waller, but the music her British quintet play is firmly rooted in the hard-bop tradition epitomised by another drummer-leader, Art Blakey, and her favourite composer is Horace Silver. Her originals — all but two numbers on this immediately accessible, sparky album — come right from the heart of classic Blue Note territory. There are blues, both loping and slinky, bustling up-tempo pieces enlivened by bursts of Latin rhythm, and soul-jazz dance grooves, all spearheaded by the punchy trumpet of Neil Yates and the deep, assured tenor of Denys Baptiste.

With Taylor driving a faultless rhythm section — the steady, eloquent bass of Simon Thorpe and Dave Frankel's fluent piano — the album (which also features a moving version of Leslie Bricusse's *When I Look in Your Eyes* sung by Claire Martin) should stir up interest in the band's forthcoming ten-date UK tour.

CHRIS PARKER

The left's right-on traitor

BLUES ALBUMS

Guitarist and singer **Josh White** had three distinct musical careers. In the 1930s he was a big-selling and commerical blues star. A decade later he reinvented himself as a folk singer performing topical and often overtly political material. In the 1950s, after denouncing his former "Communist" colleagues before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, he became an all-round entertainer who gave lots of European audiences their first taste of the blues.

It's that intriguing middle period, when White was still the darling of the American left, that is featured on *Free and Equal Blues* (Smithsonian Folkways SFCD 40081). It is a fascinating mixture of commercial pop such as *One Meat Ball* and *Miss Otis Regrets*, blues such as Leroy Carr's *Mean Mistreatin' Woman* and the political messages of *Beloved Comrade* — a tribute to Roosevelt — *No More Blues (No More Bread Lines)* and the CD's title track, a fascinating song about the absurd wartime practice of keeping black and white blood segregated. For those who think of White as merely an effective if mannered folk singer, the album is a revelation.

By the Sixties, the definition of a blues singer had moved to encompass **Lazy Lester**, one of a group of Louisiana bluesmen whose relaxed and good-natured style of music became known as swamp blues. Now 65, Lester sounds as relaxed, or should we say as chilled out, as ever on *All Over You* (Antones ANT0042). The harmonica player teams up with some top names from Texas including guitarist Sue Foley for a romp through some Louisiana favourites including two of Lester's former successes, *I'm A Lover Not A Fighter* and *You're Gonna Ruin Me Baby*.

One of the defining moments of the John Waters movie *Hairspray* was the sudden appearance of a little-known soul singer called Toussaint McCall performing a ballad of such strength and purity that it made you want to yelp with pleasure. That song, *Nothing Takes The Place of You*, now takes pride of place in the much-awaited second volume of *Deep Soul Treasures* chosen by black music expert Dave Godin (Kent CDKEND 156). Alongside are a host of other soul ballad gems including the sublime, original version of *Go Now* by Bessie Banks, an early civil rights anthem, *Cryin' In The Streets* by George Perkins, and the stunning *Let's Take A Chance* by Lisa Richards.

JOHN CLARKE

ARTS

■ POP ALBUMS

Nouveau-punk heroes

Can't teach old punks new licks

NEW POP ALBUMS: The Offspring have brought a whiff of 1977 to the charts. Oh good, says **David Sinclair**

THE OFFSPRING
Americana
(Columbia COL 491656 £12.99)
IN BRITAIN the pure pop bandwagon rolls merrily on. But it seems as if a reaction is finally setting in, and suddenly all sorts of American rock bands that have been toiling away unnoticed on the margins for most of the 1990s are enjoying an upswing in their fortunes in this country. Sebadoh and Mercury Rev were rampant at last week' s *NME* shows. This week the Offspring are No 1 in the singles chart with their rock-rap rumble *Pretty Fly (For A White Guy)* and now their latest album, *Americana*, has come back from the dead.

Released in November, when it scraped into the Top 75 for one week, *Americana* is the kind of record that even two months ago hardly rated a mention outside the specialist music press. Now it has made its debut in the Top Ten.

A bunch of nouveau-punk diehards, the Californian quartet released their first album ten years ago, since when they have doggedly pursued a one-track musical agenda which has secured them a string of internationally successful records, most notably *Smash*, released in 1994.

Americana conforms to a familiar formula, boasting mostly short, deceptively melodic tunes played at high volume and driven at uniformly reckless speed. The juvenile, liberal-baiting lyrics of *She's Got Issues* and *Walla Walla* are gilded with rowdy yobs' chorus chants, custom built for beery, mosh-pit singalongs, while the untypically relaxed *Why Don't You Get A Job?* — a song about a girlfriend who has "expensive tastes" — could well be another Top Five hit were it to be given a radio edit that trimmed the worst of the lyrical excesses.

Subtlety, then, is not their strongest point and one hesitates to talk up a record such as *Americana* as the harbinger of a watershed in popular taste. But something is changing out there, and it is certainly not the Offspring.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

BLACK STAR LINER
Bengali Bantam Youth Experience!
(WEA 3984250042 £15.99)
EVEN allowing for the groundbreaking efforts of Apache Indian, Asian Dub Foundation, Cornershop and others, the story of Anglo-Asian popular music has yet to advance much beyond the first chapter. And part of the charm of *Bengali Bantam Youth Experience!*, the second album by the Leeds-based trio Black Star Liner, is that it still sounds very much like a work in progress.

Restlessly innovative and endearingly exotic, the album nevertheless suffers from a mild case of attention deficit disorder. Early on, Choque Hosein (*see interview below*) raps out his nonsense words on *Low BMW* with wonderful exuberance while tablas and sitars meld seamlessly into the trancey groove of *Gurdeep's Yellow Funk*. But the impact rather dissipates towards the end, as the album winds down with a sequence of increasingly vague instrumental pieces.

THE MUTTON BIRDS
Rain, Steam & Speed
(shhhh! SHCDP 001 £15.99)
UNLIKE the migrating albatross from which they take their curiously unappealing name, the Mutton Birds are a band which stubbornly refuses to fly.

Still lacking an image, a hit single and — since they were dropped by Virgin — a proper record deal, the trio from New Zealand led by singer, guitarist and songwriter Don McGlashan continue to put out albums more in hope than expectation of any significant success.

Rain, Steam & Speed, their fourth studio recording, is a typically sober collection of high-quality, melodic-rock songs, written and performed with a minimum of fuss but (*pace* the inevitable and optimistic comparisons with Crowded House) with little guile or originality either.

While the artfully clanging guitars lend drama and impetus to uptempo songs such as *Pulled Along By Love* and *AsCloseAsThis*, McGlashan fails to convert his earnest, introspective musings into sentiments of more universal appeal on *Jackie' s Song*, *Hands Full*, *Ray* and other slow, minor-key offerings.

KARAMASOV
On Arrival
(Satellite STL 016 £14.99)
GROUPS such as Karamasov are the free radicals of the pop world. Flitting unpredictably around the fringes of art-rock, jazz and electronica, the Anglo-German quartet's primarily instrumental album, *On Arrival*, inhabits a parallel universe in which (whatever the title may suggest) the importance of boldly going far outweighs that of actually getting anywhere.

At their most forceful, as on the opening track from this collection, *Uneven Surface*, they sound like American oddballs Primus without the silly vocals; at their most breezy and chic, as on *Sun Always Shines in Space*, they could almost be mistaken for the modish French duo, Air.

Brilliantly played, but militantly lo-fi, the album is conceived in a delightfully enquiring spirit, an echo of the days when "progressive" used to signal something unusual and exciting rather than self-indulgent and long-winded.



One hesitates to talk up a record such as the Offspring's *Americana* as the harbinger of a watershed in popular taste

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(1)	You've Come a Long Way, Baby	Fatboy Slim (Skint)
2	(2)	I've Been Expecting You	Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
3	(5)	Talk on Corners	Corrs (Atlantic)
4	(6)	Step One	Steps (Jive)
5	(3)	Ladies & Gentlemen - the Best of	George Michael (Epic)
6	(4)	Where We Belong	Boyzone (Polydor)
7	(8)	Forgiven, Not Forgotten	Corrs (Atlantic)
8	(7)	Ray of Light	Madonna (Maverick)
9	(11)	Big Willie Style	Will Smith (Columbia)
10	(16)	Americana	Offspring (Columbia)

 ● *Figure in brackets indicates last week's position*

■ POP GIG

Ladies' night

Laugh? I nearly danced

A FEW years ago, comedy was meant to be the new rock'n' roll. Barenaked Ladies go one better and combine the two, not as some novelty act with a trite line in slapstick parody but by making serious music that at the same time is able to laugh at pop's pretensions. The likes of Madness and Squeeze have been there before, but humour is a rare intruder in rock's emotional terrain, where looking miserable has become part of the job.

The Barenakeds, on the other hand, just can't take the grins off their faces — and they have a lot to smile about right now. The Canadian quintet's first British show in almost three years found them riding the crest of a wave, with three million sales in America for their latest album, *Stunt*.

At the Shepherd's Bush Empire most of the humour came

LIVE GIG

Barenaked Ladies
Empire, W12

from the two frontmen, Steven Page and Ed Robinson, who could make an alternative career as a stand-up duo, except that they are having much more fun being improbable pop stars. The chubby and bespectacled Page combines his classic rock voice with the mannerisms of Mike Myers in the spoof movie *Austin Powers*, while Robinson's best gag involved getting a security guard to play a guitar duet with him.

The jokes worked because there is nothing comical about their musical accomplishments. The band rocked, the songs showed melodic flair, the harmonies were gorgeous and songs such as *Be My Yoko Ono* and *Brian Wilson* displayed a perfect understanding of pop's iconography. Some might find their unrelenting jollity irritating. In a bizarre ritual now familiar at every gig, a packet of macaroni cheese was thrown and Page picked it up and proceeded to read the list of ingredients. The crowd for some reason found this hilarious.

But *One Week*, a white college boy rap, was both smart and funny and is destined to be a Top Five single here. "It's all been done before," they sang in their opening number. Of course it has, but seldom with such wit and entertaining style.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Nigel Williamson meets Black Star Liner and Joi, the latest bands to emerge from the British Asian underground

Brimful of Asia on the 45 (and LP)

When Talvin Singh made an album called *The Soundz of the Asian Underground*, the title seemed an accurate enough description. While the music of second-generation British Asians thrived in cultish clubs such as London's Blue Note, the rest of the world remained indifferent. Two years on the name is woefully out of date. British Asian musicians boldly mixing East and West have marched into the mainstream as the sound of multicultural Britain.

First Cornershop, with their roots in Punjab and Wolverhampton, topped the charts with *Brimful of Asha*, a homage to the king of Indian film soundtracks. Then Asian Dub Foundation stormed the barricades with their dynamic brand of home-grown agitpop. Now come Black Star Liner and Joi, who have both been around for much of the decade but find themselves with major label deals and new albums fusing their Asian heritage with high-octane Western dance beats. Waiting in the wings is Amar, a 19-year-old Punjabi singer from Walsall, whose debut is due later this year amid rumours that her deal with Warner Bros is worth £3 million. All of a sudden, the Asian underground is beginning to look like an irresistible movement.

Earlier this week, Black Star Liner made an extraordinary appearance at London's Jazz Café. What began as a routine music industry album launch ended up as a riotous celebration of an idea whose time has come with songs celebrating such British Asian heroes as Prince Naseem and sounding like the Happy Mondays jamming with Ravi Shankar.

"Part of me groans when people talk about the Asian underground," admits Choque Hosein, Black Star Liner's charismatic frontman. "At school I was the only Asian guy, and I remember the teacher making me play tambourine and bongos in front of the whole class because I was supposed to have a sense of rhythm. It was such a stereotype. People think all Asians can do is dance and cook."

His Leeds upbringing makes him sound more like Geoff Boycott than Sachin Tendulkar, but he recalls watching football at Elland Road and being abused as the only Asian on the terraces. "When I began playing in guitar bands it was white musicians and white audiences. Now we are everywhere. We took your jobs and now we've taken your music," he jokes. "Asians have become versed in rock culture. It's ours too, and now we are giving it back to you."

Hosein grew up feeling an outsider not only because of the racial abuse he suffered, but because he was also at odds with many of the attitudes of his Indian father. Somewhere out of that conflict comes the music of Black Star Liner. "I didn't understand that many of my Dad's prejudices came from his background. He used to make us spend the summer holidays doing extra homework. That's the way Asian families are. But he taught me a lot about where he came from and about my grandparents and I always took great pleasure in that heritage. He played Bollywood music, I'd be listening to the Rolling Stones, and it was all mixed in together."

Paradoxically, it was white rock music that drove him back to his Asian roots. "I heard all these psychedelic records using sitars and Indian influences. Then, when I listened to real Asian music, I realised that the rock stuff wasn't very good. I was sure I could do it better because I understood it. For me it was real, not just some cool multicultural hippy bull."

A week earlier I had sat in a café in the heart of London's East End with Farook and Haroon Shamsher, the two Bengali brothers who constitute Joi. Their new single, *Asian Vibes*, a fabulous swirling piece of British Asian pop which puts the pretensions of Kula Shaker to shame, is released next month, to be followed by their debut album in March.

Like Hosein, the brothers are proud of their Asian heritage but are equally steeped in Western influences. "We were born and brought up here and influenced by hip hop, funk, soul and reggae," Haroon says. "But our Dad had a shop selling music to the Asian community so we heard traditional Bengali music."

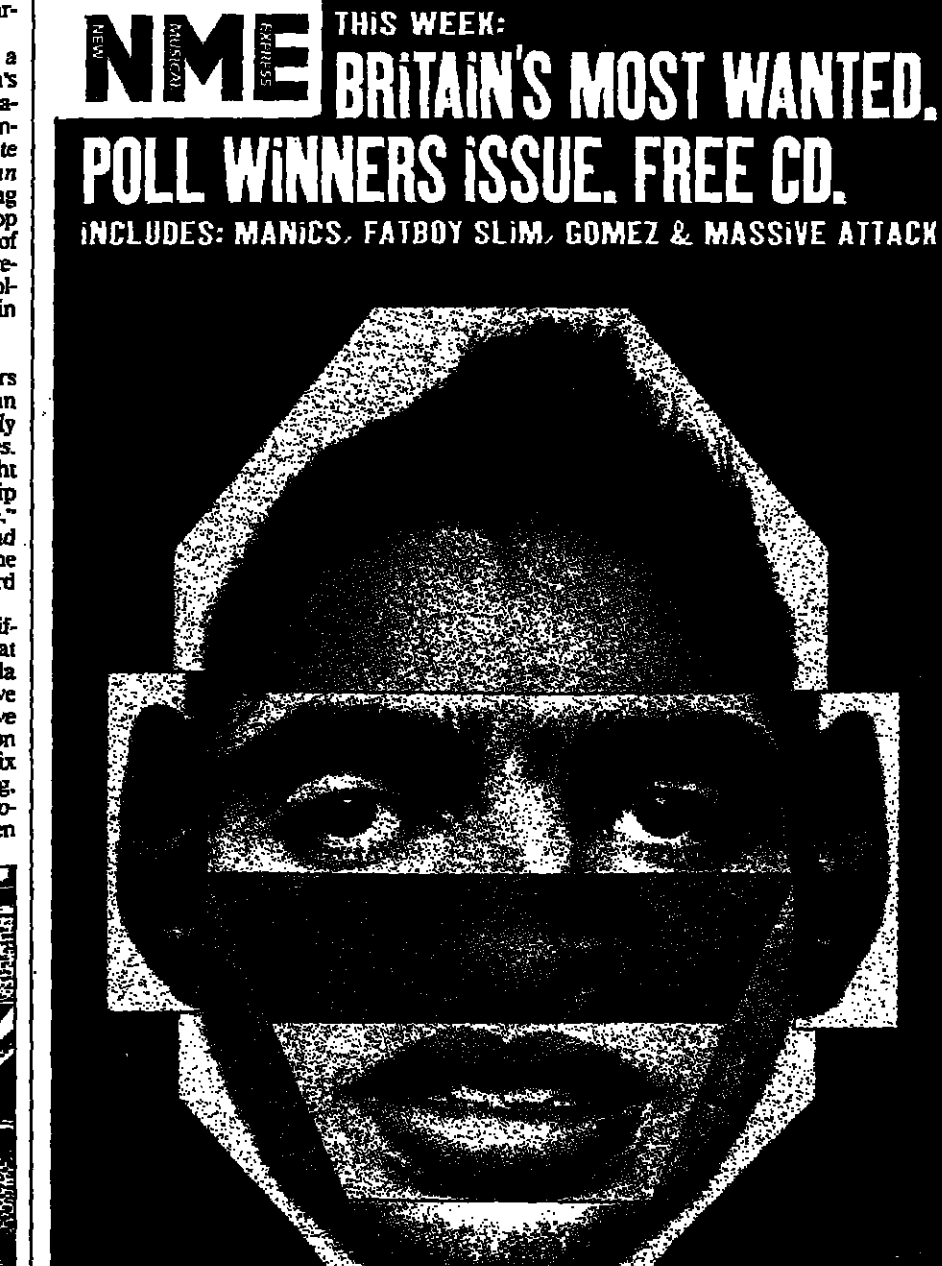
They started mixing the different elements, DJ-ing at clubs with the Joi Bangla Sound System. "When we started rapping we would give the crowd a Michael Jackson groove and then we would mix in a traditional Bengali thing, very slowly so they hardly noticed," Farook recalls. "Then we would turn it up and they would wonder what the hell it was — but they would still be dancing to it. It was seen as off-the-wall Paki music but it seemed very natural to us. We wanted to give our own people a sense of identity."

Last year they made the transition from sound system to full performing band, adding guitars and singers. "We can't be disappointed that the media is finally paying attention to the Asian scene, because it is what we have worked towards. But I hope it isn't going to be seen as a passing phase. If it gets overhyped it could get lost when the next fad comes along."

● Bengali Bantam Youth Experience *by Black Star Liner is reviewed above.* Asian Vibes *by Joi is released by Real World/Virgin on Feb 22*



"People think that all Asians can do is dance and cook," says Black Star Liner's Choque Hosein (foreground)



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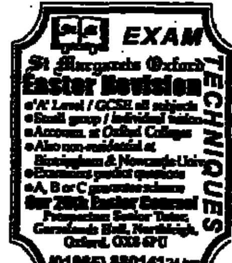
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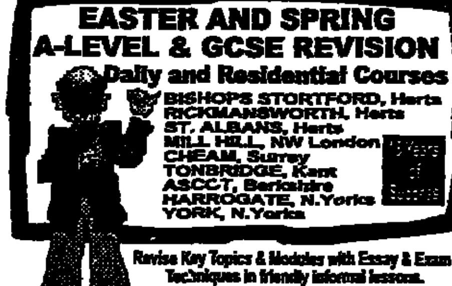


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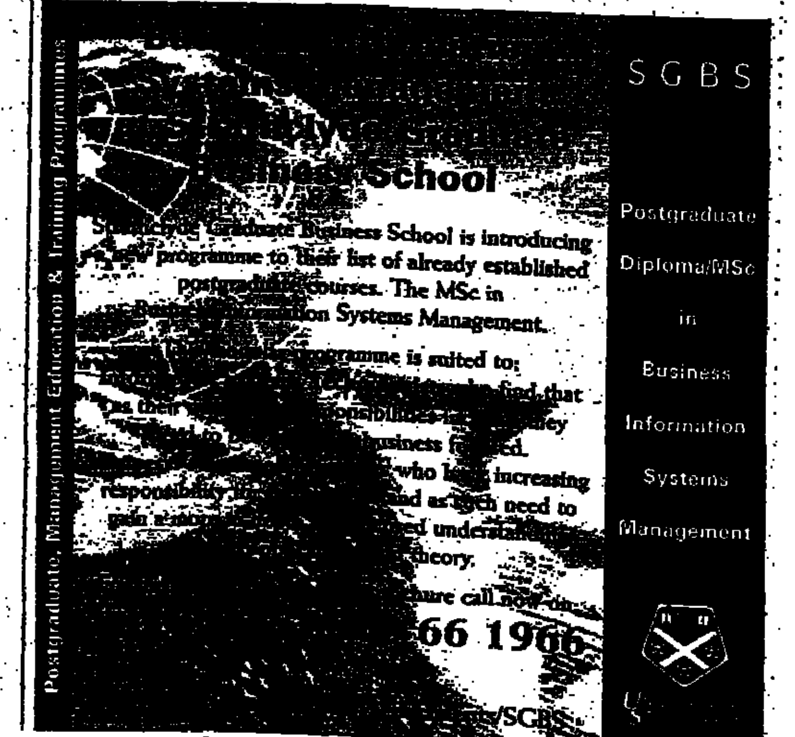


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COURSES

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THE TIMES
EDUCATION

‘A danger to young women’

Educating girls was still taboo when Benenden, now 75 years old, was founded, says Susan Elkin



Women getting out there: Benenden pupils take part in a lesson on Shakespeare in the school's Kent grounds during the inter-war years

In the decade when women are frequently said to be overtaking men, it is easy to forget that only 75 years ago education for women was considered an indulgence, and then only for a privileged few.

It has taken a long time for women's education to catch up with its male counterpart. There has been enormous progress in a relatively short time since the pioneers Miss Beale and Miss Buss founded Cheltenham Ladies' College and London Collegiate School in the mid-19th-century.

A new book, *Benenden — A Great Company*, celebrates the Kent school's first 75 years and the changing face of women's education. "Continuous mental effort is a danger to young women" was the opinion in the 1890s of the British Medical Association. It declared that too much brain work during puberty would damage women's future reproductive capacity. How the education of women progressed in the face of such opposition is astounding.

David Souden, the author of *Benenden*, describes the massive rearguard campaign. By the turn of the century there were 61 girls' schools, 22 running under the auspices of the Girls' Public Day School Trust (now the Girls' Day School Trust).

Benenden — the former Victorian Gothic home of Lord Rothermere, which is set in magnificent parkland — did not aim to be an academic hothouse. Yet today it holds a high position in exam league tables and almost all its sixth-formers go on to university.

The school was founded by Christine Sheldon, Anne Hindle and Kathleen Bird in 1924. The adventurous personalities of the founders are somewhat belied by the staid tweedy air they present in the 1948 portrait by Kenneth Green, which hangs in the school's entrance hall. In fact, the three were bored thirtysomething escapers from Wycombe Abbey who were out to break the educational mould.

Miss Bird, known as Birdie, would recount: "We hatched the plan in the stationery cupboard at Wycombe Abbey, where we used to go to eat buns."

With only £100 each to invest, they relied on their powerful blend of idealism and eagerness to find enough backers to enable them to open with 24 girls. They wanted to create a modern, relaxed environment rather than one bound by petty rules or that mimicked the ancient establishments attended by their pupils' brothers. Their charges would be able to develop freely. As one early pupil recalls: "You could learn anything in the world you fancied: bellringing or Greek, forestry or pottery, or how to cook salmon. Kindness mattered a great deal and when I left I cried for a fortnight because I truly believed that the best years of my life were over."

Today's Benenden girls, Mr Souden says wryly, are more likely to be surfing the Internet than keeping poultry in the pursuit of the "hobbies" so passionately advocated by Miss Bird.

Then, when examination curriculums did not hold every school in such thrall, one afternoon a week was systematically devoted to horse-breeding, learning a musical instrument, writing poetry and other activities. Everyone participated and there wasn't much "them and us" any more than there is at Benenden now. "Can I have another butterfly net," one pupil wrote home in the 1920s, "because I have a friend called Birdie who keeps borrowing mine?"

Mr Souden writes: "The 1920s were boom years for independent schools. There was an abundance of dedicated teachers who were part of that substantial body of unmarried women in Britain between the wars. For the first generation of university-educated women, teaching was one of the few available outlets for a respectable career."

It is hard for Benenden's current pupils, who take equal opportunities for granted, to grasp that when their great-grandmothers were schoolgirls science teaching was almost non-existent.

Mr Souden cites the example of one Benenden girl who went up to Oxford in 1927 having learnt what passed for science in a laboratory without gas. Miss Burrell, the science mistress, could only draw a Bunsen burner for her, so the student had to have private tuition before university.

Today opportunities have never been greater for women, and most expect to work for a significant part, if not all, their active lives. But it still takes a school history to remind us how far we have come.

● Benenden — A Great Company *is published by Granta Editions at £18.95.*

A case for natural justice

John O'Leary

The Independent Schools Tribunal, happily, meets only rarely. Until this week's disqualification of Robin Lindsay, the former Headmaster and proprietor of Sherborne Preparatory School, it last sat three years ago. Many of those who followed Mr Lindsay's case will think that there should be changes before it does so again.

The barring of Mr Lindsay was inevitable: a succession of inspection reports over a dozen years painted a picture of maladministration and questionable behaviour. He showed an apparently obsessive interest in boys' physical development, constantly supervising showers and weighing the rugby team naked. He would wander the school in pyjamas during the day and sometimes took children into his bedroom at night, stroking their heads, cuddling or tickling them if he found them awake.

Because of an unusual combination of circumstances, however, Mr Lindsay denied himself the right to answer even more serious charges. On the word of a psychiatrist, he was branded a "fixated paedophile", and three former pupils' allegations of sexual assaults were heard without challenge. Although the complaints relating to the assaults were not upheld, they remain on file. The most serious of them, made years after the event by a boy Mr Lindsay expelled, was not pursued by the Director of Public Prosecutions and would surely have been demolished in cross-examination.

Mr Lindsay appealed against disqualification to save the school, to which he had devoted most of his life, from immediate closure. He then withdrew the appeal to facilitate a takeover by a local trust, but the tribunal's rules require that the case must be heard anyway. It is hard to imagine another legal forum in which such damaging allegations could be heard without any defence.

Now 70, Mr Lindsay may conform to a psychiatrist's definition of a paedophile, but the behaviour described in evidence to the tribunal did not seem to fit the common usage of the term. Many boarders from previous eras will recall similar characters, who would have fallen foul of modern convention but were not abusers. Roy Chapman, the former Headmaster of Malvern College, who was also an expert witness, correctly judged that Sherborne was a school "in a time warp".

Owner-head teachers of preparatory schools can be a law unto themselves and occasionally ride roughshod over the interests of pupils and staff. The penalty of disqualification may then be the only one available to curb their excesses, but there must be natural justice in the treatment of appeals. A one-sided public hearing is hardly that.

Your country needs you

Like the Armed Forces, the teaching profession would benefit from short-service commissions, says Jenny Stephen

How remarkable that one of the spin-offs from the British Empire is an education system in Singapore that is highly regarded, and whose professional workers are so valued that applications for teacher-training places are oversubscribed.

What a contrast with the United Kingdom, where we have a profession that is being talked up by politicians after being battered to the ground by them in previous decades.

Recruits are still hard to find: we print glossy brochures, we join the "Milk Round" at universities, an advertising campaign declares that no one forgets a good teacher and the Government says it is going to pay superteachers more. Despite this, we cannot encourage people to join our profession.

Examples that point to the reasons are numerous: my son starts his training contract at a law firm on the same salary as it takes an honours graduate with one year's postgraduate training seven years to reach. We ask teachers to work in schools that are in a bad state of repair. We ask them to teach without providing them with the tools of the trade. How odd that a newspaper reported recently for the first time in 100 years that the teachers in a village school did not have to queue to go to the outside toilet — Third World provision at the end of the 20th century.

Rhetoric is not enough: the Government needs to be creative. One way forward is to create a system of short-service commissions in teaching, akin to those used in the Armed Forces. Given that transferable skills are fashionable, it is time to recognise that a trained teacher is a priceless asset in a huge range of organisations outside education because of the skills required.

The teacher has to refine exceptional communication skills and to deal with children across all boundaries of gender, age and ability. The teacher has to take swaths of factual information and boil it down to bite-sized lumps, packaging it attractively and tailoring its delivery to strict time limits. The teacher has to blend strict professional ethics and principles with a capacity to learn when and where to compromise. The teacher has to work as a member of a team and yet retain individuality. The teacher has to view people in their entire complexity, as a brain and as a body, as a set of emotions as well as an intellect. The teacher has to come to terms with external methods of assessment and national standards, yet never stop self-monitoring.

The teacher has to be able to learn quickly and to take his or her work home. The teacher has to learn to adapt, from A level to remedial, from classroom to playground. The teacher has to be willing to take a decision, and to know when to defer a decision. The teacher has to read what others write and assess it, as well as writing reports for others to read and assess. The teacher has to learn how to keep up in his or her subject as well as teaching it.

These are crucial skills which we should learn to transfer. Short service commissions work for the Army; why not for teaching? Industry, the Civil Service, universities and the professions need these short-service commission schemes where teachers can serve their learning time in schools and then be guaranteed transfer of their skills back to a wide range of other careers.

Perhaps short-service commissions might stop the Government from having to dictate the agenda for everything taught in schools and let that agenda be dictated by the customers. Indeed, the increased communication between sectors might mean that schools started to understand what industry needs and industry might learn what schools can reasonably be asked to provide. It might mean that language skills match what business and the country needs and that English lessons resuscitate grammar, and that information technology skills serve the needs of employers, not the whims of the pupils. Above all, such a scheme would mean that more postgraduates would enter education because it would be seen as an excellent starting point for any one of a number of careers, and not as a vocational cul-de-sac.

Far more people would be lured into teaching because the relevance of its skills base, and hence its credibility and respectability, would be re-established after years in the doldrums. For employers, it would mean a steady flow of staff whose skills had been tempered in the furnace of the school and classroom, in one of the most answerable and demanding professions in the world.

● *The author is Head of The Grange School in Hartford, Cheshire.*

SAILING

Bullimore's yen for adventure survives intact

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent

TONY BULLIMORE used to be a successful yachtsman, though not particularly well known outside the rarefied world of international multihull racing. Then, two years ago, he was plucked from the Southern Ocean by the Australian Navy and life has never been the same for the former nightclub owner from Bristol.

Given the extraordinary circumstances of his rescue and his remarkable instinct for survival, it is not surprising that Bullimore has had difficulty putting the episode behind him. In the past 18 months he has given talks, written a book and helped to make documentaries about his experiences. He has had to put up with people assuming that he has made millions out of it — he has not and the much-hyped sponsorship by a chocolate manufacturer never happened — and he admits that he is growing weary of it.

At the tender age of 60, what he wants above all is to be taken seriously as a yachtsman and he has thrown himself headlong into his most ambitious project to date with the purchase of the old Nigel Irens-designed catamaran, *Royal & SunAlliance*, formerly the round-the-world record-breaker, *ENZA New Zealand*.

It is a project aimed at re-writing records, including the Jules Verne non-stop round-the-world time, and entering The Race, the non-stop round-the-world dash for unlimited boats that starts in December 2000.

This is not going to be easy sailing but Bullimore is up for it, untroubled it seems by ghosts returning to haunt him from the icy waters 1,000 miles southwest of Fremantle. Bullimore says that his appetite for the big time is "exactly the same" as it ever was and, when he walks on *ENZA's* hulls, he gets the same thrill as he always did from a multihull.

"I'm still smoking and I'm desperate to give it up," Bullimore said. "But I'm nowhere near my age. I feel great. I can hack it with people a lot younger than me — running, jumping. I'm all right."

The big cat is at present on the hard at Redcliffe Wharf in Bristol where she is being tented over before a substantial programme of modifications, which include adding eight feet to the bows and fitting a new, bigger wingmast. The aim is to make the boat, which was originally launched in 1983 as the 80ft *Formula TAG*, as competitive as possible at a time when an unknown number of huge catamarans are being constructed for The Race.

So far, only one, Steve Fossett's 105ft *PlayStation*, has been completed and it is far from certain how many more will be built. It is for this reason that Bullimore and Irens dismiss those who argue that the old *ENZA* is yesterday's news.

Irens believes that the extra length in the hulls and power in the rig could lift her average potential speed in the Southern Ocean from around 18 knots to possibly 24 knots and he is confident his "old warhorse" still has a competitive future.

"The new era is so indeterminate at the moment," Irens said. "We don't know what these new boats are going to do, which ones are going to get out and which ones are going to break down when they do get out. What Tony's boat represents, assuming he does the work, is a good standard entry or a benchmark. Someone may well go faster in a new boat but Tony's boat is a known quantity that can only be improved."

Bullimore is no stranger to risk-taking, either on the water or off it. But he has spent £400,000 buying *ENZA* and the project has already swallowed up another £100,000. Now he needs a commercial backer to help him pay for the work and the campaign. There are three interested parties and he is confident that one of them will sign by the end of February.

However, if he cannot find a sponsor, there are three other syndicates, including one in France, that are prepared to buy the project from him. They believe that Bullimore's cut-price approach to The Race could well be the way ahead. But the ever-optimistic Bullimore is hoping it won't come to that.

"The thing is," he said, "I've got no doubts we will do well in this boat. Nigel has made it clear to me that, with all the modifications we are doing, we are actually taking her into the 21st century, ready to race."



Bullimore has grown weary of reliving his Southern Ocean rescue and longs to be taken seriously as a yachtsman



LASZLO BALOGH

Krylova and Ovsiannikov perform their original dance in Prague yesterday

Russian pair on brink of winning elusive title

From Angela Court in Prague

ANJELIKA KRYLOVA and Oleg Ovsiannikov strengthened their position as the leading eligible ice dancers in the world yesterday by winning the second round of the ice dance competition at the European figure skating championships.

The three-times champions of Russia skated in a manner befitting the holders of the Olympic silver and world gold medals and are on course to claim their first European title when the competition concludes tonight with the free dance.

Krylova, 25, and Ovsiannikov, 29, have spent much of their career in the shadow of another Russian couple, Pasha Grishuk and Yevgeni Platov, the two-time Olympic gold medal-winners, who have turned professional and dissolved their partnership.

Although Krylova and Ovsiannikov came close, they never defeated them, having to settle for silver at three European championships, two world championships and the 1998 Olympic Games.

Yesterday, in the original dance section of the competition, their waltz, performed to *The Drinking Song* from *La Traviata*, and sung by Pavarotti, contained textbook skating and strong artistry.

Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat, the Olympic bronze medal-winners from France, are second. Their free dance to *The Man in the Iron Mask* soundtrack is quite spectacular and likely to be one of the highlights of the entire championships. Irina Lobacheva and Ilia Averbukh, from Russia, are third.

Charlotte Clements and Gary Shortland, the British champions, skated a dreamy, lilting waltz without significant errors and held on to fourteenth place.

The women skate their short programmes this afternoon. Maria Butyrskaya, from Russia, remains the favourite for gold.

HOCKEY

S Africa may join England on tour

By Sydney Friskin

SOUTH Africa may join England on their tour of Argentina at the end of March to set up a three-nation series at three different venues.

Barry Dancer, the England coach, explained yesterday that the South Africans are committed to a home series against a side from the Australian Institute of Sports, but are hoping to bring these matches forward so as to be free for the trip to Argentina.

In the National League premier division, Teddington's line-up at home to Cannock on Sunday includes Jon Hauck, who scored all their goals in a 5-4 victory over Old Loughtonians. Neil Campling, the Teddington manager, said: "For the first time this season, we were at full strength. We now expect to upset a few more leading teams." Cannock report no injury problems.

Except for Peter Riley, the defender, who is on a weekend commitment with St George's Weybridge, Guildford can call on all of their best players for the home match against Canterbury, the league leaders.

Southgate, having solved most of their injury problems, are taking a squad strong enough to meet the challenge by Beeston, who hope to lift themselves back into fourth position, above Reading. Their ambition is unlikely to be achieved, for Reading are on a visit to Brooklands, who are still languishing at the bottom of the table. East Grinstead, who beat Brooklands 9-1 last week, visit Hounslow, whose relegation worries have not yet eased.

Surbiton, with Greg Nicol, the South African centre forward, back in their ranks, are pushing fervently towards the top of the first division, but they seem unlikely to displace Barford Tigers, who should take full points from Indian Gymkhana.

Doncaster and Havant continue their chase to finish on top, but the matter will not end there. The champions will have to play off against the tenth-placed team in the premier division to decide the last place in the restructured premier division next season.

Bollington believes her time has come

By Cathy Harris

LYNN BOLLINGTON has played for Chelmsford for 23 years and although the club have come close to capturing the national indoor league title on several occasions, they have never triumphed. This weekend, in the play-offs at Crystal Palace, Bollington is determined to change that.

The former England outdoor international and captain of the indoor side believes that few would begrudge the Essex club the honour. She said: "We've always played well, in the right spirit, and taken it seriously. We have edged closer and closer, just missing out to Slough last season. It's about time we won."

She acknowledges that competition in the round-robin event will be tough, especially against Slough, the holders, and Hightown, the former champions, but remains confident. She said: "We have managed some good practice sessions and are playing well as a unit, our main strength."

With the English Hockey Association's continued failure to secure sponsorship deals, preparations have proved expensive. The hotel bill for the qualifying weekend cost Chelmsford £700 and Bollington, 37, confirmed that a two-hour training session in an indoor hall costs £100. She said: "It makes it difficult to practise — we end up on various surfaces, in various venues at various times."

The good news is that Lorraine Marsden, the former England indoor and outdoor international, could make her first appearance for the club this season after recovering from illness. "She's just the sort of player you want on the bench. Her presence would really boost our chances," Bollington said.

In Prague, the England Under-21 indoor team open their campaign in the European Nations Cup against Slovakia today. However, one has to question the wisdom of spending more than £20,000 to send a poorly prepared twelve-strong squad, accompanied by eight officials, to a tournament snubbed by both Germany and Holland.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

UNI-BALL TROPHY: Quarter-finals: Birmingham Bullets 72 Manchester Giants 96; Derby Storm 109 Newcastle Eagles 102; London Towers 61 Leicester Riders 82; Sheffield Sharks 82 Chester Jets 75
BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Greater London Leopards 76 Edinburgh Rocks 73.

CRICKET

ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL: Kingsmead: South Africa 274-9 (50 overs; L Klusener 64, W J Cronje 58; C L Hooper 4-52). West Indies 219 (43.1 overs; S Chanderpaul 52). South Africa beat West Indies by 55 runs.

Tour match

Central Districts Emerging Players v England Under-19

PALMERSTON NORTH (first day of three). Central Districts Emerging Players, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are level with England Under-19

ENGLAND UNDER-19: First Innings

M A Gough c Austin b Hefford	5
J Maunders lbw b Blake	11
I D Bell c Anderson b Hefford	2
M Carberry st Sigley b Anderson	82
R Dawson c Walker b Blake	5
G R Haywood b Walker	3
M J Symington c Fulton b Blake	9
M Wallace c Ingram b Blake	0
J Tucker c Sigley b Blake	2
G R Bridge c Sigley b Walker	2
†A J A Whiley not out	0
Extras (b 2, lb 1, w 1, nb 12)	16
Total	137

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-20, 3-36, 4-51, 5-74, 6-93, 7-93, 8-100, 9-131

BOWLING: Hefford 14-4-41-2, Blake 14-3-52-5; West 6-3-12-0; Walker 7-2-25-2, Anderson 1-0-4-1.

CENTRAL DISTRICTS: First Innings

G Mines c Gough b Whiley	1
P Ingram c Bell b Tucker	0
E Austin c Tucker b Symington	17
G Stretch b Whiley	5
D Fulton c Wallace b Whiley	17
M Walker c Maunders b Dawson	30
M Sigley c and b Dawson	21
R West not out	16
D Blake not out	2
Extras (lb 4, nb 24)	28
Total (7 wkts)	137

D Anderson and S Hefford to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-8, 3-23, 4-39, 5-57, 6-104, 7-119.

BOWLING: Whiley 14-6-24-3; Tucker 12-6-35-1; Haywood 2-0-8-0, Symington 8-3-21-1; Bridge 12-4-32-0; Dawson 9-5-13-2.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

WORTHINGTON CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Tottenham 0 Wimbledon 0
FA CUP: Fourth round: Sheff Utd 4 Cardiff 1 (Sheff Utd away to Arsenal).
SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Dundee 0 Rangers 4.
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Third division: Berwick 2 Ross County 2.
FA TROPHY: Third round: Shepshed D 1 Emley 1 Third-round replays: Enfield 0 Hitchin 1, Hednesford 2 Colwyn Bay 2 (aet; 1-1 after 90min; Colwyn Bay win 5-4 on pens)
PETER BEARDSLEY TESTIMONIAL MATCH: Newcastle XI 1 Celtic 3.
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Sunderland 1 Liverpool 0; Manchester Utd 4 Derby 0 Second division: Shrewsbury 2 Wrexham 1 Huddersfield 2 Lincoln 1. Third division: Carlisle 1 Hartlepool 2; Darlington 2 Bury 4; Rochdale 0 Walsall 3. League Cup: Group two: Hull 1 Rotherham 4; York 2 Halifax 1 Group three: West Bromwich 1 Tranmere 1. Group six: Leicester 2 Notts County 1. Bradford 3 Scunthorpe 0.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bournemouth 1 Barnet 2; Cambridge 3 Gillingham 0; Colchester 3 Portsmouth 1. Reading 1 Ipswich 2; Wycombe 1 Southampton 2.
NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: St Helens 4 Cheadle 1.
SCHWEPPES ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Eton Manor 0 East Ham 2.
LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth 2 Rhayader 1; Conwy 2 Rhyl 1.
FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Shelbourne 1 Dundalk 2.
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Third round: Watford 4 Romford 0. Fourth round: Blackburn 1 Sheff Utd 2; Newcastle 0 Chelsea 0.
BELGIAN LEAGUE: Standard Liège 2 Genk 4.
ITALIAN LEAGUE: Quarter-finals, second leg: Parma 4 Udinese 0 (Parma win 6-3 on agg); Internazionale 5 Lazio 2 (Internazionale win 6-4 on agg).

GOLF

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida: LPGA Office Depot Classic: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated): 67: J Inkster, K Webb (Aus). 68: T Green, K Robbins, M Redman. 69: K Tschetter, L Neumann (Swe), J Crafter (Aus), K Albers, A Dibos (Peru). 70: P Sheehan, D Richard, D Pepper, C McCurdy, B King, T Johnson (GB), C Nilsmark (Swe), L Lindley, L Kane (Can). 71: L Davies (GB), D Coe-Jones (Can), S Strudwick (GB), Se-Ri Pak (S Kor), A Nicholas (GB), M Lunn (Aus), M Hirase (Japan), R Hetherington (Aus), H Alfredsson (Swe). Other scores: 72: C Matthew (GB). 73: L Hackney (GB), H Dobson (GB).

ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr Scottish Eagles 1 Cardiff Devils 2.
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Florida 2 Montreal 1; Dallas 3 Los Angeles 2; Edmonton 3 Chicago 4 (OT); Anaheim 3 Colorado 4

RUGBY UNION

WELSH CHALLENGE TROPHY: Pool A: Caerphilly 0 Edinburgh Reivers 64. Pontypridd 69 Georgia 7. Pool B: Bridgend 10 Glasgow Caledonians 8.
CLUB MATCH: Oxford University 12 Richmond 29.

SNOOKER

CARDIFF: Regal Welsh Open (England unless stated). Second round: R O'Sullivan bt J White 5-2; P Ebdon bt M Davis 5-0; J Higgins (Scot) bt P Sweeny 5-3. J Wattana (Thai) bt D Taylor (N Ire) 5-2; J Swail (N Ire) bt N Bond 5-3. A McManus (Scot) bt M Fu (HK) 5-4. Third round: S Hendry (Scot) bt M Stevens (Wales) 5-4; S Bingham bt Higgins 5-4 S Davis bt F O'Brien (Ire) 5-0; Wattana bt P Wallace (Ire) 5-2.

SQUASH

NEW YORK: Tournament of Champions: Semi-finals: J Power (Can) bt P Nicol (Scot) 15-10, 15-4, 15-5; A Barada (Egypt) bt P Johnson (Eng) 15-10, 7-15, 17-14, 14-17, 15-8.

TENNIS

MELBOURNE: Australian Open: Men: Singles: Semi-final: T Enqvist (Swe) bt N Lapentti (Ec) 6-3, 7-5, 6-1 Doubles: Semi-finals: M Bhupathi (India) and L Paes (India) bt E Ferreira (SA) and R Leach (US) 7-6, 6-3, 7-6; J Bjorkman (Swe) and P Rafter (Aus) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) and M Woodforde (Aus) 3-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, 8-6. Women: Singles: Semi-finals: A Mauresmo (Fr) bt L Davenport (US) 4-6, 7-5, 7-5, M Hingis (Switz) bt M Seles (US) 6-2, 6-4 Doubles: Semi-final: L Davenport (US) and N Zvereva (Bela) bt S Williams (US) and V Williams (US) 1-6, 6-4, 6-4 Mixed doubles: Quarter-final: E Ferreira (SA) and D Graham (US) bt D Johnson (US) and K Po (US) 7-6, 6-1. Girls: Singles: Third round: H Collin (GB) bt M Clayton (Aus) 6-2, 6-4.

SNOW REPORTS

SKI CLUB

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Runs to Resort	Off-piste	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Andorra								
Soldeu	80	100	Good	Open	Powder	Fair	-2	28/1
Austria								
Kitzbühel	50	116	Fair	Open	Powder	Snow	1	28/1
Obergurgl	40	190	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-4	28/1
Söll	45	80	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-5	28/1
Canada								
Lake Louise	130	177	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-4	28/1
France								
Alpe d'Huez	93	180	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-3	28/1
Avoriaz	120	150	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-1	28/1
Flaine	110	250	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-5	28/1
La Plagne	110	190	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-3	28/1
La Tania	105	140	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-3	28/1
Les Arcs	98	225	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-3	28/1
Megève	60	160	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	0	28/1
Méribel	70	120	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-3	28/1
Tignes	93	190	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-5	28/1
Val Thorens	70	130	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-4	27/1
Val d'Isère	105	160	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-2	28/1
Italy								
Cervinia	75	180	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-5	28/1
Cortina	40	80	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-8	28/1
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	30	145	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	[illegible]	28/1
Davos	80	180	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-10	28/1
Grindelwald	50	160	Good	Closed	Powder	Snow	-2	28/1
Klosters	70	180	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-3	28/1
Mürren	90	140	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-2	28/1
Saas Fee	90	250	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-5	28/1
St Moritz	40	[illegible]	[illegible]	Some	Powder	Snow	-3	28/1
Verbier	40	[illegible]	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-4	28/1
Wengen	40	[illegible]	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	0	28/1
Zermatt	50	130	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	1	28/1
United States								
Aspen	105	133	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-8	28/1
Deer Valley	155	170	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	0	28/1

http://www.skiclub.co.uk L = lower slopes U = upper slopes

SPORT IN BRIEF

SWIMMING: Michelle Smith-de Bruin will not have her appeal against a four-year suspension heard until May 3, the Court of Arbitration for Sport said yesterday. A decision on the Irish triple Olympic champion's case was expected this month, but the four-month time limit to hear the appeal will be extended because of difficulties in bringing all parties together. Smith-de Bruin was found guilty of tampering with her urine sample in an out-of-competition drugs test and banned by Fina, swimming's world governing body.

SQUASH: Jonathon Power, the world champion from Canada, beat Peter Nicol, the world No 1 from Scotland, 15-10, 15-4, 15-5 in the semi-finals of the Tournament of Champions in New York yesterday. In the final, he will meet Ahmed Barada, of Egypt, the world No 3, who defeated Paul Johnson, of England, 15-10, 7-15, 17-14, 14-17, 15-8.

RUGBY LEAGUE: London Broncos officials have been ordered to pay outstanding money from gate receipts to Halifax Blue Sox and Hull Kingston Rovers after apparently short-changing their opponents during the Challenge Cup last season. Both Yorkshire clubs claimed to have received lower than expected receipts from their shared gates at The Stoop Memorial Ground.

ROWING: Continued rain and a swollen river has caused the Hampton Schools Head to move from its usual course at Molesey tomorrow. The organisers have rescheduled the race on the Tideway at 2.45pm over a course from the London University boathouse to Chiswick Eyot. Hampton's first eight lead off as the 1998 winners, chased by St Paul's and Westminster.

SOLUTION TO BOXING DAY TIMES TWO JUMBO

ACROSS: 1 Chain-smoker 7 Assign 10 Friction 16 Cypriot 17 Lobster 18 All-American 19 A Midsummer Night's Dream 20 Olive 21 Outscore 23 Mega 24 Shapelessness 27 Beam 28 Hard-boiled eggs 30 Frolic 34 Metric system 35 Postmillennial 37 Deputes 39 Research 40 Rhinoceros 43 Take to wife 45 Tinsmith 46 Scrumpy 48 Collector's item 49 Reinvigorate 52 Titian 53 Indirect object 54 Sack 57 Lepidopterist 60 Fowl 61 Ferryman 63 Grain 64 Wonders will never cease 67 Sustainable 68 Blériot 69 Implied 70 Side dish 71 Asides 72 Ghost-writer
DOWN: 1 Cockatoo 2 Appointment 3 Nails 4 Metamorphosis 5 Kilter 6 Robin Redbreast 7 Astigmatic 8 Steamy 9 Grandparents 11 Remember 12 Curiouser and curiouser 13 Incline 14 Nonsensical 15 Flue 22 Come into the garden, Maud 25 English Channel 26 Cross-reference 29 Exorcise 31 Leitrim 32 Amidst 33 Clan 36 Balinese 38 Placket 41 Styled 42 Disembowelling 44 With 46 Saint Benedict 47 Divisiveness 48 Cytologists 50 Accompanist 51 Soulfulness 55 Upswings 56 Engender 58 Praised 59 Test bed 62 Next to 65 Nibs 66 Caper

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Begin Bridge with *The Times*: Lesson 41 – Responding Round-up

We have now covered all the basic responses to opening bids at the one level so here is a quiz to test your understanding.

What would you respond to your partner's One Heart opening on the following hands?

	(A)	(B)	(C)
♠	K J 10 5	K Q 4 3	K J 10 6 5
♡	5 4 3 2	4 3	9 8
♢	A Q 5	Q J 10 7 2	A K 10 6 5
♣	7 6	7 6	3

	(D)	(E)	(F)
♠	Q 4	K 10 3	6 5 4 3
♡	K 4 3	K J 2	9
♢	J 10 7 6	K J 10 7	A K Q 8 7 6
♣	Q 10 6 5	K 8 7	4 3

With *Hand (A)* raise to Three Hearts. You have found an eight-card fit so there is no need to bid your spades. On *Hand (B)* you don't have enough to bid at the two level so start with One Spade. *Hand (C)* is not a trick question. Just start with One Spade. On *Hand (D)*, with 8 HCP, you don't have enough to bid at the two level but you can't support partner with only three cards, so start with One No-Trump. *Hand (E)* is perfect for an immediate jump to Three No-Trumps. On *Hand (F)* I would bid Two Diamonds and then rebid Three Diamonds if partner bid Two Hearts. Sometimes we might miss a 4-4 spade fit but it goes against the grain not to bid such a good suit at all.

There are just a couple of refinements we have not yet covered. What would you respond to your partner's One Club opening?

	(G)	(H)	(I)
♠	Q 4 3	Q 4 3	J 4 3
♡	K 4 3	K 4 3	9 8
♢	J 10 7 6	K J 10 7	Q 10 7 6
♣	7 6 3	7 6 3	K 6 4 3

There is a convention that a One No-Trump response to a One Club opening shows 8-10 HCP, slightly more than over other openings. This is because you must have an alternative. If you had a four-card suit other than clubs you could bid it; whereas if you had four clubs you could raise partner's suit. So with *Hand (G)* respond One Diamond, with *Hand (H)* respond One No-Trump (it is better to make a descriptive limit bid if you can) and with *Hand (I)* raise to Two Clubs, a response which denies a good four-card major suit.

□You can get any lesson you may have missed from this beginners' course by sending two 26p stamps per lesson (or five stamps per set of five) to Sally Brock, 73 Totteridge Lane, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7QA. Don't forget to state which ones you want.

□Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

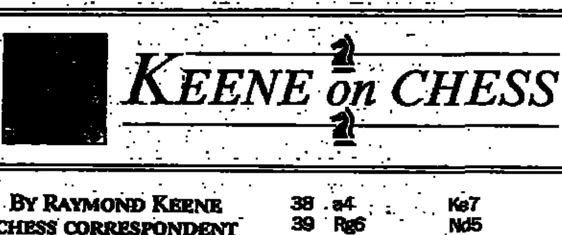
AGATHISM
a. Morbid fear of aunts
b. Things are getting better
c. Allergy to sugar

BREVET
a. The young weasel
b. A message
c. A lateral drain

AGEE
a. An elderly woman
b. A nightcap
c. Crooked

BELGARD
a. A tower
b. A loving look
c. An arrow slit

Answers on page 54



KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Kramnik wins

One of the most dangerous players in the Wijk aan Zee tournament is Vladimir Kramnik, the Russian grandmaster. Kramnik is distinguished by an excellent score against Kasparov himself over their many encounters. In today's game Kramnik defeats Alexander Yermolinsky, a former Russian player who now represent the United States.

White: V Kramnik
Black: A Yermolinsky
Wijk aan Zee 1999
Nimzo-Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	Bb4
4	Qc2	d6
5	Bg5	Nbd7
6	e3	b6
7	Nge2	Bb7
8	a3	Bxc3+
9	Nxc3	h6
10	Bh4	0-0
11	f3	c5
12	dxc5	bxc5
13	0-0-0	Qe7
14	Be2	Rfd8
15	g4	Ne5
16	Rxd8+	Rxd8
17	Rf1	Bc6
18	Bg3	Ng6
19	Bd3	Qd7
20	Be2	Qb7
21	h4	Nh7
22	Rd1	Re8
23	Nb5	Bxb5
24	cxb5	Nf6
25	g5	hxg5
26	hxg5	Nd5
27	Qd2	Qe7
28	e4	Nc7
29	f4	e5
30	f5	Nf4
31	Bxf4	exf4
32	g6	Qxe4
33	gxf7+	Kxf7
34	Bh5+	Kf8
35	Qd6+	Qe7
36	Bxe8	Qxd6
37	Rxd6	Kxe8
38	a4	Ke7
39	Rg6	Nd5
40	Kd2	Ne3

Black resigns

Diagram of final position

Carrom

Carrom is a board game popular in India but fast growing in the UK. It combines elements of chess and billiards. Leading results in the UK Open Carrom Championship were: 1, Kamal Abedin, 2, Saleh Ahmed, 3, Nazrul Islam.

Wijk aan Zee website

The Wijk aan Zee games can be followed on chess2.lostcity.nl/hoogovens/

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions will be published here or in the Saturday *Times* Weekend column.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

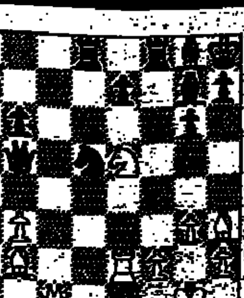
□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Szabo — Donner, Goteborg, 1955.

The black king seems very well defended by the bishop pair, but White now proved that this is not the case. Can you see how?



Solution on page 54

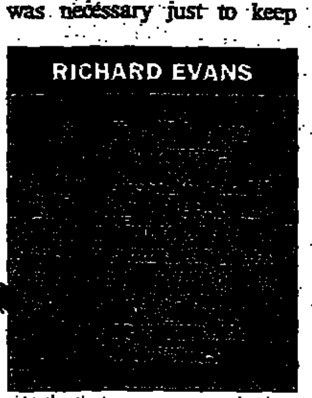
RACING: FORMER HUNTER CHASER ENTERS FESTIVAL PLOT AFTER IMPRESSIVE WINCANTON PERFORMANCE

Double Thriller joins Gold Cup suspects

By Chris McGrath

AS IN all the best thrillers, the big question will not be answered until the closing pages, but the plot certainly thickened in intriguing fashion at Wincanton yesterday. For after bludgeoning his rivals out of the way on his first run for Paul Nicholls, Double Thriller now finds himself among the leading suspects for both the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup and Martell Grand National.

In beating four inferiors by a distance under top weight in the Racing Channel Handicap Chase, Double Thriller achieved as much or as little as was necessary just to keep



such aspirations alive. More significant, perhaps, was the new perspective placed on his status as the only horse to have beaten Teeton Mill under Rules. His brawny physique, agile jumping and tireless gallop must now be incorporated into the teasing web of evidence surrounding their encounter in a hunter chase at Cheltenham last April.

The bookmakers are certainly taking a positive view. The Gold Cup sponsor cut him from 40-1 to 16-1, while he is as short as 12-1 for Aintree with Ladbrokes. Joe Tizzard, his teenage jockey, could face a choice to puzzle the most wizened of his seniors if See More Business, also trained by Nicholls, revives his own Gold Cup claims in the Pillar Chase at Cheltenham on Saturday.

Robert Thornton, who rode a treble for Nicholls at Kempton last weekend, will doubtless be especially curious to learn his colleague's decision, while the talented Earthmover, another of last season's top hunters, could compound the stable's embarrassment of riches at Chepstow on February 11.

Double Thriller carries the colours of Reg Wilkins, who enjoyed such success with Double Silk. "We've got the facilities and the time, while Reg was training him more for fun," Nicholls said. "He did very well with him and gave him a good grounding. He's been very exciting at home and I've been nervous about today, because when you think you've a good horse you want him to look a star on the track.

"He will come on for the run, because he was held up with coughing over Christmas, and he has only done four bits of work since. This ground would have been tacky enough for him, too. He's learning all the time. He has only won a handicap off 129 here, so realistically he still has a long way to go."

An intimidating presence in the paddock, Double Thriller was fresh and keen in the early stages and Tizzard let him jump into the lead at the ninth. Having got away with flying a couple of fences and shortening nimbly into one or two others, basically he was running away throughout. Tizzard took a look over his shoulder leaving the back straight and could coast clear of the least exhausted of his pursuers, Malwood Castle.

"He jumped for fun and did it all on the bridle," Tizzard said. "He was very good for a big horse when he got in close. He's a big, long-striding horse but he'd have gears as well."

The next chapter for Double Thriller will be the Jim Ford Chase back at Wincanton on February 25, by which time the National weights will have been published.

In the interim, punters will be poring over his defeat of Teeton Mill, since successful in the Hennessy Gold Cup and the King George VI Chase, shortly after the grey had joined Venetia Williams. There are those who believe that Teeton Mill, so impressive on flat tracks this season, faltered up the Cheltenham hill that day. Either way, it appears rather more forgivable to have been outstayed by Double Thriller after yesterday.

There was a contrasting ignominy to another comeback when Wither Or Which dropped tamely away in a maiden hurdle at Gowran Park, his first start since winning the 1996 Cheltenham Festival Bumper. His jumping, naive to start with, became steadily worse and he faded quickly from the third last.


JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

Double Thriller jumps clear on his way to a commanding victory in the Racing Channel Handicap Chase at Wincanton yesterday

Hi Hedley rescues lost cause at last

THE victory of Hi Hedley in the Hinchingbrook Novices' Chase at Huntingdon yesterday proved once again that there is no such thing as a lost cause in National Hunt racing.

He seemed booked for third with four fences to jump as King Pin and Sursum Corda disputed the lead. King Pin had taken the measure of Sursum Corda at the second last, but, with the race in his pocket, refused at the final fence.

Sursum Corda also ground to a halt at the obstacle and Hi Hedley, who had slowly been clawing back the deficit, nipped through under Michael Brennan to gain the unlikeliest of victories.

Chris Kinane, assistant to Hi Hedley's owner-trainer, Geoff Hubbard, said: "We deserved a change of luck. Michael said they had set off far too quickly and felt he would have finished second anyway. The horse was brave to go through that little gap. He could have turned it in."

Tonoco, trained by Sue Smith and ridden by Seamus Durack, maintained his 100 per cent hurdling record with a fluent display in the EBF Novices' Hurdle.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Huntingdon

Going: soft

1.20 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Cathedral Belle (G Lee, 7-2 jt-fav), 2, Zahaale (13-2); [illegible]

Wincanton

[illegible]

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

[illegible]

SPECIALISTS

[illegible]



Doncaster

THUNDERER

1.00 I'm Imran. 1.30 Professor Cool. 2.05 Wynyard Knight. 2.35 THE OUTBACK WAY (nap). 3.10 Goodtime George. 3.45 Sillars Stalker. 4.20 Beaufort Zero.

Timekeeper's top rating: 3.10 GOODTIME GEORGE.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) . TOTE JACKPOT MEETING . SIS

1.00 SELBY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,066: 2m 110yd) (18 runners)

[illegible]

1.30 EBF NH NOVICES HURDLE (£3,777: 2m 4f) (17 runners)

[illegible]

2.05 DONCASTER RACECOURSE SPONSORSHIP CLUB NOVICES CHASE (£4,232: 2m 110yd) (5 runners)

[illegible]

COURSE SPECIALISTS

[illegible]

2.35 STANLEY RACING HANDICAP CHASE (SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (£7,741: 2m 3f 110yd) (11 runners)

401 PPR1-0 COLONEL IN CHIEF 63 (G,S) (R Ogden) M Todhunter 9-12-0 ... M A Fitzgerald 123
402 P-1328 FORESTAL 34 (G,S) (B Maguire) J Howard Johnson 7-11-2 ... A Maguire 127
403 4/P-00 GO UNIVERSAL 28 (CD,F,G,S) (Universal Conference) N Chance 11-11-1 S Durack 47
404 0-2124 GLAMANGLITZ 83 (CD,F,G) (Mrs J Martin) P Dalton 9-10-11 ... R Johnson
405 3-4213 THE OUTBACK WAY 75 (F,G,S) (Mrs B Grainge) J Wade 9-10-8 ... W Marston 131
406 511331 NOSAM 11 (CD,F,G,S) (N Mason) N Mason 9-10-0 (6ex) ... K Johnson 132

[illegible]

3.10 CUSWORTH NOVICES HURDLE (£3,331: 3m 110yd) (13 runners)

[illegible]

3.45 SANDALL BEAT NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£4,846: 3m) (14 runners)

[illegible]

4.20 WEATHERBYS 'STARS OF TOMORROW' OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (£1,787: 2m 110yd) (18 runners)

[illegible]

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Southwell: 12.40 Billy Box. 1.10 Scorched Air. 2.15 Ambitious, Atlanta, Crinolder. 3.20 State Wind. 4.30 Hypenco.



Folkestone

THUNDERER

1.15 Legendary Lover. 1.50 Fanfaron. 2.25 Perfect Fellow. 3.00 Caracol. 3.35 Selatan. 4.10 Itsonlyme.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY IN PLACES) SIS

1.15 GIBBONS BROOK NOVICES HURDLE (£2,488: 2m 1f 110yd) (6 runners)

[illegible]

1.50 PADDLESWORTH CHASE (£3,785: 2m 5f) (5)

[illegible]

2.25 STELLING MINNIS NOVICES HURDLE (£2,427: 2m 6f 110yd) (7)

[illegible]

3.00 SIX MILE BOTTOM HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,346: 2m 1f 110yd) (7)

1 1001 FALMOUTH BAY 14 (CD,S) E L James 10-12-0 J R Kavanagh 99
2 -414 CARACOL 18 (CD,G,S) J Neville 10-11-8 ... A P McCoy 86
3 3031 SHOOFK 23 (CD,S) S Dow 8-11-1 ... J Osborne
4 -055 FOREIGN RULE 14 (CD,S) J Jenkins 5-10-8 ... B Fenton 104
5 3-45 TURRILL HOUSE 21F (D,G,S) W Musson 7-10-6 N Williamson 88
6 P-03 AUGUST TWELFTH 48 (S) D O'Brien 11-10-0 M Batchelor (5) 79

[illegible]

3.35 NEWINGTON PEENE HANDICAP CHASE (£2,846: 3m 2f) (4)

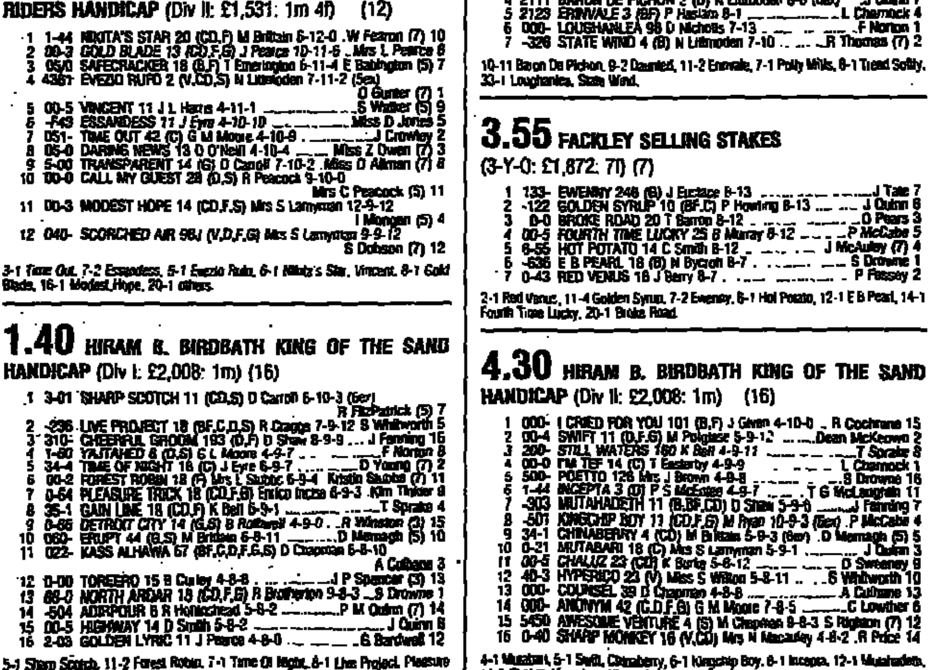
[illegible]

4.10 WEST WOOD STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,458: 2m 1f 110yd) (9)

[illegible]

COURSE SPECIALISTS

[illegible]



Southwell

THUNDERER

12.40 Mach One. 1.10 Evezio Rufo. 1.40 Gain Line. 2.15 Ambitious. 2.45 Pip's Brave. 3.20 Baron De Pichon. 3.55 Ewenny. 4.30 Chaluz.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

12.40 I RODE MY ONE WINNER HERE AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (Div I: £1,531: 1m 4f) (13 runners)

[illegible]

1.10 I RODE MY ONE WINNER HERE AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (Div II: £1,531: 1m 4f) (12)

[illegible]

1.40 HIRAM B. BIRDBATH KING OF THE SAND HANDICAP (Div I: £2,008: 1m) (16)

[illegible]

2.15 ANNESLEY STAKES (£2,274: 6f) (10)

[illegible]

2.45 DANETHORPE STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,871: 1m) (11)

[illegible]

3.20 CARLTON-ON-TRENT HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,693: 7f) (7)

[illegible]

3.55 FACKLEY SELLING STAKES (3-Y-O: £1,672: 7f) (7)

[illegible]

4.30 HIRAM B. BIRDBATH KING OF THE SAND HANDICAP (Div II: £2,008: 1m) (16)

[illegible]

Vaughan digs in to rescue position

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN KWEKWE

KWEKWE (third day of four): England A, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 111 runs behind the ZCU President's XI

DOUR, determined and correct, Michael Vaughan offered England A a passage to safety as the President's XI struggled to continue their dominance at the Kwekwe Sports Club. In the face of a 226-run first-innings deficit, and the best part of five sessions remaining, Vaughan batted for nearly four hours over an unbeaten 69, an innings that has gone a long way to redeeming the profligacy of their batting on the opening day.

Each and every run to which Andy Flower and the President XI's tail had helped themselves in the morning would have driven home the folly of their carefree strokeplay on Tuesday.

On this occasion, Vaughan and Robert Key were able to build a platform from which the match should be saved — but not without considerable slices of luck. Vaughan edged consecutive deliveries from Bernard Pswarayi for boundaries — both at shoulder height either side of third slip — and Key touched the same, luckless bowler to the wicketkeeper soon after, only for the umpire to signal a no-ball.

When Key eventually fell leg-before, pushing forward to Dan Peacock, the opening partnership had reached 70, at barely more than two runs an over.

Mal Loye dusted down the cobwebs with a straight six off Peacock but then settled down, rarely troubled by a bowling attack that lacked bite.

The England bowling was markedly more disciplined, but Andy Flower patiently took his overnight century on to 194 before running out of partners shortly after lunch. A brief cameo of 44 from 38 balls from Gus MacKay broke up the bowlers' rhythm before Jason Lewry returned to capture the last two wickets.

ENGLAND A: First Innings 267 (M G N Windows 69, A Flintoff 61).

Second Innings

R W T Key lbw b Peacock	25
*M P Vaughan not out	69
M B Loye not out	15
Extras (lb 1, nb 5)	6
Total (1 wkt)	115

FALL OF WICKET: 1-75.

BOWLING: MacKay 6-2-13-0; Pswarayi 10-2-33-0; Mbangwa 12-5-13-0; G W Flower 5-0-9-0; Peacock 15-3-34-1; Viljoen 8-6-4-0; Goodwin 3-1-8-0.

PRESIDENT'S XI: First Innings

G W Flower b Thomas	130
S Nyakutse b Lewry	0
M W Goodwin c Windows b Thomas	13
*A Flower not out	194
D P Viljoen run out	70
G L Lamb st Read b Cosker	1
D J Peacock c and b Cosker	3
†C T Gurr c Flintoff b Cosker	5
A J MacKay c Read b Swann	44
M Mbangwa lbw b Lewry	4
B W S Pswarayi b Lewry	0
Extras (lb 17, w 3, nb 9)	29
Total	493

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-86, 3-211, 4-351, 5-353, 6-334, 7-404, 8-453, 9-491

BOWLING: Lewry 12-3-45-3; Harmison 24-7-71-0; Cosker 39-4-135-3; Swann 37-3-116-1; Thomas 25-4-73-2; Flintoff 7-0-17-0; Windows 2-0-7-0; Vaughan 2-0-12-0.

Umpires: K Kanyee and M Esat

CRICKET: INDIA SEIZE CONTROL ON ENTERTAINING OPENING DAY OF HISTORIC TEST WITH PAKISTAN



Although the security presence was high-profile, the opening day of the first Test between India and Pakistan for nine years passed without incident. Photograph: D. Krishnan

Kumble provides six of the best

FROM RICHARD HOBSON IN MADRAS

MADRAS (first day of five: Pakistan won toss): India, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 190 runs behind Pakistan

A NEW era dawned yesterday as India and Pakistan, the fiercest of rivals, broke from the torpor of meetings past in a dashing resumption of Test competition. The game has evolved over the nine years since these countries last met over five days and an appreciative crowd of around 35,000 at the Chidambaram Stadium was presented with a contest of daring and aggression, in keeping with the modern will to succeed.

From the third over, when Afridi carved Srinath over gully, to a final counter-attack by Sadagopan Ramesh, the idea of retrenchment did not appear to occur to either side.

This approach backfired on Wasim Akram, who must have expected a bigger total than 238 when he opted to bat first on a pitch that has already begun to wear noticeably. So far the amount of turn has been minimal but Anil Kumble, in his fiftieth Test, troubled a succession of batsmen by generating steep bounce to return figures of six for 70 from 24.5 overs.

Pakistan contributed to their own downfall and only an impressive half-century by Yousuf Youhana and a tenacious contribution from Moin Khan prevented them from posting an even more modest total.

Although exuding no signs of division in the eight overs of India's reply, Pakistan's players must have been both surprised and deflated as the left-handed Ramesh, making his debut on his home ground, unleashed a stream of languid strokes to reach 30 from 22 balls before the close. Each of his five boundaries met with a louder cheer and the confident start by the 23-year-old will swell the attendance today.

Spectators, some paying as little as 50 rupees (70p) for a five-day ticket, moved patiently in single-file queues that snaked around the walls of the ground from 7am, three hours before the start of play. A legion of armed guards already stood in place. Despite such trying circumstances, and temperatures of 26C, behaviour was impeccable. Good cricket by Pakistan — and there was plenty in between moments of carelessness — prompted generous applause.

The decline of the Pakistan innings could be traced to the moment when umpire Ramaswamy adjudged Anwar leg-before to a ball that the batsman expected to drift past the off stump but instead brushed his pad on the way through to the wicketkeeper.

The decision could only have been marginal and there were further occasions, too, when the batting side had some cause for complaint.

Yet this did not disguise the culpability of certain members of the top order. Inzamam inexplicably pushed a return catch to Kumble when he should have dispatched the full toss through mid-wicket. Four overs later, Ijaz pushed down the wrong line to a straight ball to become the second of the leg spinner's victims.

To complete a wasteful trilogy, Salim Malik offered a flimsily crooked bat to what amounted to a fast off break from the crafty Srinath.

Yousuf, the only Pakistani to enhance his reputation during the recent lost series against Zimbabwe, responded to the fall of the first five wickets for 91 with a sound technique and unflustered manner. He drove Kumble for a straight six, a stroke repeated by Moin against the slow left-arm of Joshi two balls later, before falling leg-before for 53 when he played outside the line of a straight ball from Tendulkar.

The sixth wicket had added 63 and Moin then put on 60 with his captain, pulling the short ball in front of square against the pace attack and cutting late when Kumble strayed in length. His strength proved his downfall, however. Ganguly, at slip, anticipated another attempt to work Kumble to third man and took a diving catch one-handed.

When Wasim and Nadeem Khan fell close to the wicket, Kumble was able to celebrate the twelfth five-wicket haul of his Test career. The removal of Saqlain to another catch at short leg, when the ball clearly hit nothing but pad, testified to the bowler's good fortune.

"To achieve this against Pakistan in my fiftieth Test makes this one of the most special days of my life," Kumble said. The joyous scenes if India are able to capitalise on their strong position can only be imagined.

WEBSITE: www-uk.cricket.org

TELEVISION: First ONdigital (channel 33), 4.30am (live), 9pm highlights

Test series in doubt

ORGANISERS of the Asian Test Championship are expected to announce within the next 48 hours if the first triangular series of five-day games since 1912 will go ahead as scheduled next month (Richard Hobson writes).

India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are due to contest the round-robin event, but doubts remain because of a dearth of sponsorship. The projected final in Bangladesh would be the first Test match played on neutral ground for 87 years.

Raj Singh, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, said: "The situation must become clear in a day or so. My feeling is that it is more likely to be yes than no."

SCOREBOARD FROM MADRAS

PAKISTAN: First Innings

Saeed Anwar lbw b Srinath	24
Shahid Afridi c Ganguly b Srinath	11
Ijaz Ahmed lbw b Kumble	13
Inzamam-ul-Haq c and b Kumble	10
Yousuf Youhana lbw b Tendulkar	53
Salim Malik b Srinath	8
†Moin Khan c Ganguly b Kumble	60
*Wasim Akram c Laxman b Kumble	38
Saqlain Mushtaq c Laxman b Kumble	2
Nadeem Khan c Dravid b Kumble	8
Waqar Younis not out	0
Extras (lb 5, nb 6)	11
Total	238

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-32, 2-41, 3-61, 4-66, 5-91, 6-154, 7-214, 8-227, 9-237.

BOWLING: Srinath 15-3-63-3; Prasad 16-1-54-0; Kumble 24.5-7-70-6; Joshi 21-6-36-0; Tendulkar 3-0-10-1.

INDIA: First Innings

S Ramesh not out	30
V V S Laxman not out	18
Total (no wkt)	48

R Dravid, S R Tendulkar, *M Azharuddin, S C Ganguly, †N R Mongia, S B Joshi, A Kumble, J Srinath and B K V Prasad to bat.

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 4-1-21-0; Waqar Younis 3-0-23-0; Saqlain Mushtaq 1-0-4-0.

Umpires: R S Dunne (New Zealand) and V K Ramaswamy.

New row adds to Cork's problems

BY IVO TENNANT

DOMINIC CORK, the England all-rounder who is embroiled in Derbyshire's latest internal row, claimed yesterday that he was the victim of a "dirty tricks campaign" to try to remove him from the club. He is taking legal advice over allegations in a national newspaper yesterday.

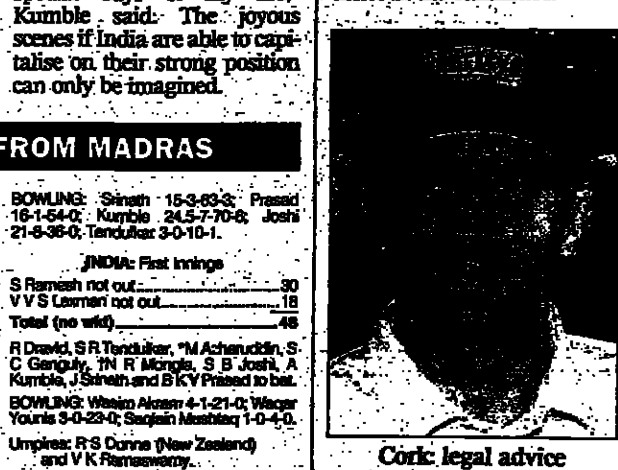
Cork has said he will not continue as the captain of Derbyshire unless he is given complete control of cricketing matters. The club have withdrawn the deadline for him to notify them of his intentions and are to hold an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) soon to attempt to resolve differences between him, Harold Rhodes, a committee member, and Andy Hayhurst, the coaching and development officer.

"Derbyshire have confirmed that I have not been reported to Lord's about a disciplinary matter and there now seems to be a dirty tricks campaign from somewhere inside the club," Cork said. "This has resulted in callers ringing a local radio phone-in, criticising me under false names. The authority the chairman gave me when I took over as captain has subsequently been undermined," he said.

Cork is likely to ask the club to carry out internal investigations, including checking whether telephone calls were made to the newspaper in question. Trevor Bowring, the new chairman of Derbyshire, said yesterday he was upset that this latest incident should occur straight after he pleaded for conciliation when he was appointed on Wednesday.

It would appear that either Cork or Hayhurst, who was displaced as the first-team coach on Cork's advice last May, will have to leave the club. Bowring wants both men to remain, but their differences were aired publicly at an acrimonious annual meeting on Tuesday and a reconciliation seems unlikely.

Bowring would also like to prevent an EGM taking place, but Dave Griffin, the organiser, who has handed in 230 signatures — more than the necessary ten per cent of voting members for it to be called — said: "We want to force a motion of no confidence in the committee."



Cork: legal advice

Barrow hoping to pull through

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

NATIONWIDE Conference officials have their fingers crossed that Barrow will be able to play out the season, despite the club's appearance in court last Monday to face a winding-up order.

John Moules, the Conference secretary, said: "They have a receiver at the club but will certainly be fulfilling their fixtures in the immediate future. As far as we're concerned, they haven't contravened any Conference rules and will carry on as usual.

"We know there have been a series of meetings this week involving parties interested in putting finance into the club. The situation is being monitored on a daily basis but all the other clubs in the competition hope they will be able to continue."

Jim Duckworth, the liquidator installed to run the club, confirmed that the match against Kingstonian tomorrow would go ahead after a group of businessmen lodged a deposit to cover any potential losses.

Duckworth said that the Conference was insisting that "all football-related debts be cleared" before a new company could be set up. "It may take some time, so we could go from week to week like this for some while," he said.

Barrow were given some breathing space when Stevenage Borough retained their place in the FA Umbro Trophy this week and will travel to Cheltenham Town a week tomorrow rather than take on Barrow in the Conference.

Stevenage were fined £3,000 and ordered to pay the costs of the FA hearing after being found guilty of fielding an ineligible player in the first-round match against Uxbridge.

Rob Kean, released by Luton Town, had played in the United States in the summer and not received the necessary international clearance to resume his career in England.

Stevenage held up their hands to the slip after it was uncovered by Roger Austin when he took over as club secretary last week. Austin, secretary at Hitchin Town for the previous four years, gave up his job as a manager of a computer company to take up the full-time appointment.

"It was one of those things that just crop up," Austin said. "It was something overlooked by the player, as simple as that. The club wasn't at fault, it was just a minor technicality."

The Conference expects to hear from the FA Council today that it has supported the recommendation by the League Sanctions Committee that the Conference should not be allowed to set up a second division, news which seems sure to provoke a robust reaction.

FOOTBALL: WENGER TO EXTEND FRENCH CONNECTION BY SIGNING BORDEAUX STRIKER

Arsenal move for Diawara

BY GEORGE CAULKIN AND STEPHEN WOOD

NORTH London's apparent captivation with all things Gallic is expected to be further reinforced today when Arsenal complete the transfer of Kaba Diawara, the Bordeaux forward. In spite of his relative inexperience, the 23-year-old has impressed Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, in training this week and an estimated £2.5 million fee has been agreed between the clubs.

In the short-term, Diawara, has been signed as cover for Wenger's first-choice attacking partnership of Dennis Bergkamp and Nicolas Anelka. Though both are fit, uncertainty surrounding the availability of Nwankwo Kanu has left Wenger's options thin up front. Kanu, who joined Arsenal for £4 million from Internazionale a fortnight ago, is still awaiting his work permit.

Diawara has spent most of the past three years on Bordeaux's substitutes' bench and remaining in France would offer only more of the same. "If he comes back to us, he will spend the rest of the season on the bench," Elie Baup, the Bordeaux coach, said.

Wenger's response to the red tape encountered by Kanu, the Nigeria forward, has been no less strident. "It is frustrating for me to say the least, especially as in France you can sign a player from anywhere and play him right away," he said. "I am delighted to get Kanu but I do not intend to sign any more players from outside Europe now because the process is so difficult."

Fergus McCann, the managing director of Celtic, has promised a speedy resolution to Celtic's continuing dispute with Croatia Zagreb over the non-payment of Mark Viduka's £3 million transfer fee. Fifa confirmed yesterday they had received a letter of protest from the Croatian Football Federation, raising the prospect of an official investigation into the conduct of the Scottish club.

"Celtic will ensure all parties are dealt with fairly and properly," McCann said in an official statement last night. "Celtic feels strongly that it is to everyone's advantage that Fifa has full disclosure of events and will keep them advised of our intentions." Viduka has returned to Celtic Park after a seven-week absence because of emotional stress.

Mick Wadsworth was yesterday appointed the new manager of Colchester United, the Nationwide League second division club, resigning from Scarborough eight months after leading the club into the third division play-offs. Ray McHale and Derek Mountfield will share managerial duties at The McCain Stadium on a caretaker basis.

Alex Ferguson has admitted defeat in his bid to add to Manchester United's ranks before the European Cup transfer deadline on Sunday. "It's a limited field but one I'm in because so many players are cup-tied," he said. "We will not be signing anyone."

Jason McAteer, the new Blackburn Rovers signing, revealed yesterday that Liverpool, his former club, had tried to persuade him to stay a while longer. Blackburn themselves have been trying to tease some loyalty out of Tim Sherwood, their captain, although it appears that their efforts might also be in vain.

Sherwood has rejected the offer of a new, improved contract. Rovers want the midfield player to stay, but insist they will not offer the 29-year-old more money. Sherwood has publicly questioned the club's ambition, leading to speculation that he could soon join Tottenham Hotspur.

However, there was another twist last night, with Sherwood claiming that he does not want to leave. "I have let the manager know that I do not want to go," Sherwood said. "I am very disappointed that we have not been able to agree terms. From the start of the negotiations, which have dragged on too long, I have come a lot closer to Blackburn's figure than the club have to mine."

McAteer arrived at Ewood Park yesterday, despite Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, trying to persuade him to stay at Anfield. "Gérard told me that he did not want me to go," McAteer said, "but it was pretty obvious that I was not in his long-term plans. When you spend so much time on the substitutes' bench, it gets you down."

McAteer is expected to make his debut for Blackburn against Spurs in the FA Carling Premiership tomorrow.



McAteer: frustrated

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Nationwide League

Second division

Stoke v *Manchester City* (7.45)

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: Midland Conference: Chesterfield v Mansfield (1.0)

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Coleraine v Omagh (7.45)

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: St Patrick's Athletic v Shamrock (7.45). Waterford v Bohemians (7.45).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Club matches

Wakefield v Sheffield (8.0)

Castleford v Gateshead (7.30)

Warrington v St Helens (7.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Newcastle Eagles v London Towers (7.30)

HOCKEY: Women's national indoor championships (at Crystal Palace, 12.10).

Veteran targets his final goal

Alaric Nightingale on the Russian striker aiming for the top at 52

DURING the past four years, Vladimir Tumaev has appeared in more than 100 games for his football team, Gasovik Gasprom. Last season, the centre forward's goals helped the modest Izhevsk side to finish in a respectable ninth place. This season, they are hoping to go one better. All perfectly ordinary stuff, except that Tumaev celebrated his 52nd birthday in December and only made his senior debut four years ago.

More startling still, the great man is also a senior figure in local business and politics. In between walloping in goals for Gasovik — legend has it he once struck a penalty so hard that when the ball came back off the post it knocked the referee off his feet — he is the club's president and director general of his company, Spetzgas Avtotrans.

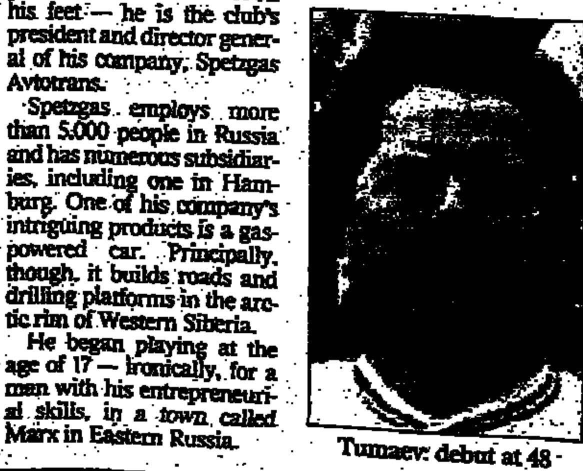
Spetzgas employs more than 5,000 people in Russia and has numerous subsidiaries, including one in Hamburg. One of his company's intriguing products is a gas-powered car. Principally, though, it builds roads and drilling platforms in the arctic rim of Western Siberia.

He began playing at the age of 17 — ironically, for a man with his entrepreneurial skills, in a town called Marx in Eastern Russia.

Business commitments prevented him from playing at a senior level and it was not until the age of 48, when he had a little spare time, that he made his debut in the Russian third division. After two promotions, he finds himself just one step away from the highest league in the country.

Tumaev is also a grandfather and his granddaughter, Katya, 8, frequently attends matches to cheer him onwards and upwards, hopefully to the Russian premier league.

"I have a dream," he says. "To take the team to the top division, go out on the pitch, play for about ten minutes — not too strenuously — and say goodbye to the fans."



Tumaev: debut at 48

David Hands on a long-term strategy that has brought rapid results

Ulster's plan reaps early harvest


MIKE COOPER / ALLSPORT

Williams, Ulster's director of rugby for only six months, has quickly built a team that is greater than the sum of its parts

AS Ulster stand 24 hours away from the most significant day in their history, Harry Williams, the club's director of rugby, may reflect today with a smile on the modest targets that he set for his first year in charge.

"We made a conscious decision at the start of the season that we would get the community involved," Williams, who only took up his three-year appointment last July, said. He also asked that the community should not expect miracles from his players. Where, he may wonder as he gazes out of his Dublin hotel window on the eve of the European Cup final against Colomiers, did he go wrong?

Yet it is Williams, a self-effacing former prop from the Malone and Bangor clubs, who has propelled Ulster along the road that so many English clubs would love to have trod. Not only that, it is Williams who has made the transition from the dear, departed days of amateurism, when Ulster dominated the inter-provincial tournament, to the heady days of professionalism. He did so, he says, because his former life as the headmaster of a primary school four miles outside Belfast had become too stressful.

When Williams coached Ulster from 1987 to 1991, he carried off four provincial titles with teams that, man for man, were more talented than his present squad. Think of a back division comprising two outstanding wings in Trevor Ringland and Keith Crossan, recall the powerful David Irwin — now the team's doctor — and forwards like Willie Anderson, Philip Matthews, Jim McCoy and Denis McBride.

Ulster's secret is that they have learnt to play for each other, that the whole — as Anderson himself declared to anyone who would listen after the semi-final defeat of Stade Français — is greater than the parts.

"I came in with a three-year plan to try to develop the players," Williams, 55, said. "We didn't know what the format would be for the next few years, so this year we were quite conservative in our goals." His aim was to qualify for next year's European tournament by finishing first or second in the inter-provincial tournament. In the event, Ulster came second, behind Munster.

"We also wanted to give a good account of ourselves in Europe," Williams said, and during the dark days of September, when three matches were lost and one was drawn, that seemed unlikely. After the 39-3 defeat in Toulouse, Williams admits to losing his temper with his players.

"We were just so bad that day, the self-belief wasn't there, but when we got them back at Ravenhill in the return, we played them exactly the way we needed to," Williams said. Maybe his fit of spleen had its effect precisely because it was so unexpected. Williams is an organised, methodical man who makes full use not only of his playing resources but also of his teaching skills. He nurtures the family spirit in the team, the boyhood friendships that have lasted into manhood.

Ulster's 1.5 million population leaves him with a relatively small playing base: "These guys have known each other from school, they have socialised at clubs; it's a tight-knit community," Williams said. "But the spin-off from our success has been to create a sense of identity which other bodies within the community identify with.

"Our *raison d'être* is to serve the national side, but the feel-good factor locally has been massive. We have tried to be user-friendly, the boys talk to youngsters, and we have to admit to becoming more marketable, which helps sponsorship and may also help draw back more of our English-based players — and possibly one [Jeremy Davidson, the British Isles lock] from France."

> ‘People have thanked us for providing the greatest day of their lives’

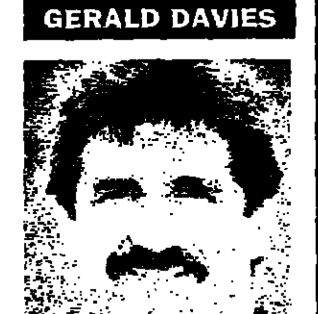
When the team travelled to Dublin yesterday, they were given a rapturous send-off at Belfast Central station. Many of the well-wishers will follow them south tomorrow to swamp Lansdowne Road with their colours.

"The response to our reaching the final has been overwhelming," Williams said. "We have had faxes from people we have never heard of, thanking us for providing them with one of the greatest moments of their lives."

He added, however: "The danger now is that expectation is so high. We just can't allow the defeat of Stade Français to be our final."

Dublin looks the perfect stage for final

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Union Commentary

The European Cup Final at Lansdowne Road tomorrow will be a passionate affair. We should expect nothing less of Dublin, a city that sees itself as embracing the European spirit. This could not be said of Cardiff or Bordeaux. Despite the enthusiasm and harmony with which the finals were greeted over the past three years, neither of those cities has the cosmopolitan air that we will witness around St Stephen's Green and Grafton Street tomorrow.

If truth be told, it was difficult to imagine a European Cup final taking place in Dublin. A team from the Emerald Isle, according to received wisdom, was not expected to get this far. They were not up to it, those from more insular corners of these islands. And given these rude presumptions, Lansdowne Road was not seen as a possible venue for the competition's final game.

They could not muster enough support to fill the famous stadium. The European final, it was felt, could not be staged in Dublin in the way, for instance, that it was in Cardiff two years ago when no team from Wales was present. With Wales's strong tradition for rugby, its interest in all things to do with the game, Leicester and Brive were able to draw a crowd of 41,644 to the Arms Park, a large percentage of whom were neutral Welsh observers. It is hard to imagine this level of support turning up for such a match anywhere else in the world.

The European rugby cup organisers knew this and so, by bringing the final back to Arms Park for a second successive season, they helped to sustain the momentum of the fledgeling competition. The crowd for that 1997 final was twice that of the previous year for the inaugural tournament, when 21,800 turned up to watch the home team, Cardiff, play Toulouse. Last year, in Bordeaux, there was a full house of 36,500.

The expectation is that, with a vast exodus tomorrow from the north, Lansdowne Road's capacity crowd of 49,000 will prove to be the biggest yet for a European final and so put any patronising conduct to rest.

The pace of growth continues. From the organisers' point of view, in what has been, for them, a traumatic year, they could not have dreamt of a better outcome for the contest, nor a better stage upon which to play. In view of the bitter battles that have been fought over the past 12 months, and are still being fought, some will see this as sweet revenge against the English clubs who chose not to take part. Acrimony has aroused such ugly emotions.

That a team from Ireland should have the chance to carve its name on the trophy is a significant moment. Only the mean-minded, foolish and arrogant will mention the absence this season of the English clubs and the effect that this might have had on the tournament.

This weekend, indeed from the moment Ulster qualified so dramatically in front of 20,000 ecstatic people at Ravenhill, it is not the tournament that should feel the poorer because of the absentees. Rather it is the players and the clubs who will have felt left out of the spectacle. It is they who will recognise emptiness for not having played their part.

If they lack that sense of unease, of unwilling admiration, or even envy, while others prosper, they cannot consider themselves to be true competitors.

Any tournament creates its own momentum, as this one surely has. True, if the French clubs had swept the board, as they nearly did, it would have been far from satisfactory. The presence of Ulster has made all the difference and has swung the balance, for the moment at least, in favour of the organising committee in their battle with the English clubs.

But, as ever, in the unending and agonising arguments of the past 12 months, what may seem a valid opinion at breakfast time may not accord so easily with events come lunch time. So that after the intoxicating mood of Dublin this weekend and the belief that a European tournament of sorts is the only way for the European game to flourish, will we be any the wiser in the cold light of next week about the form of future tournaments? Critically, the French clubs hold the decisive cards.

But, away with second-rate politics. Let us glory for now in what Dublin has to offer.

Thomas hopes for positive outcome

By Our Sports Staff

DEAN THOMAS, the Swansea forward, is waiting for a definitive verdict over his dismissal in the unofficial Anglo-Welsh series against Saracens last weekend. Thomas hopes to be cleared for the SWALEC Cup game with Newport tomorrow.

Swansea have informed Saracens that they think the sending-off to be sufficient punishment, but the London club have pointed to a further act of violence by Thomas before the incident that brought about his dismissal. The Rugby Football Union, through English Rugby Partnership, are expected to give a verdict after a meeting in Bristol today.

France have named three new caps to play Italy tomorrow in their warm-up match for the Five Nations Championship. Christophe Laussucq gains his first cap at scrum half on the back of a fine season for Stade Français, while both props, Patrice Collazo and Alessio Galasso, will make their debuts in Genoa.

The France selectors have been handicapped by the European matches that take place this weekend, which have deprived them of players from Colomiers, Bourgoin, Brive, Montferrand and Narbonne. They play Ireland in Dublin a week tomorrow in the first round of the Five Nations.

FRANCE (v Italy, tomorrow): A Gomes; E Ntamack, F Comba, R Dourthe, X Garbajosa; T Castaignède, C Laussucq; P Collazo, R Ibañez (captain), A Galasso, H Miorin, T Cleda, S Betsen, C Juillet, P Benetton.

Scots seek short-term solution

By Alasdair Reid

SCOTLAND have traditionally profited from consistent selection through the Five Nations Championship, but there was a decidedly temporary look about the 22-man squad announced yesterday for their first match in the tournament this year, against Wales at Murrayfield tomorrow week.

Indeed, Jim Telfer, the coach, all but admitted that, if injuries are overcome, three changes are likely to be made to the squad before Scotland take on England at Twickenham a fortnight later. Gordon Simpson, Matt Proudfoot and Jamie Mayer could not be considered for the Wales match, but if all three continue to regain fitness, they are almost certain to come into contention for the Calcutta Cup match.

Mayer, the centre, and Simpson, the flank forward, have groin injuries, but both have responded well to treatment in recent days. Proudfoot, the prop who sustained a neck injury last October, has completed his recovery, but the selectors believe that he still lacks match-fitness.



Proudfoot: return delayed

Strangely, though, they showed no reservations about including Tom Smith, the British Isles loose-head prop, who has been bothered by a neck injury all season. "Although Tom hasn't played much, he has had intensive therapy and we feel that he is fully fit now," Arthur Hastie, the team manager, said. "We felt that Matt Proudfoot needed some games to rebuild his match-fitness and confidence."

The temporary absence of Mayer gives the selectors a problem as to who should partner John Leslie in midfield. The main contenders are Alan Tait, Cameron Murray and Gregor Townsend. There is no easy solution, though, as Murray and Townsend have played at wing and full back respectively in recent games and moving either to centre would have a knock-on effect. Townsend may be given the nod, with Glenn Metcalfe brought in at full back.

The Scottish Rugby Union has negotiated for John Leslie to be available for all the Five Nations games. Leslie had signed a contract to play for a Japanese club from March, but his release for internationals has been secured.

SQUAD: Backs: G Armstrong (Newcastle Falcons), D Hodge (Edinburgh Reivers), J Leslie (Glasgow Caledonians), K Logan (Wasps), S Longstaff (Glasgow Caledonians), G Metcalfe (Glasgow Caledonians), C Murray (Edinburgh Reivers), B Redpath (Edinburgh Reivers), A Tait (Edinburgh Reivers), G Townsend (Brive). Forwards: S Brotherstone (Edinburgh Reivers), G Bulloch (Glasgow Caledonians), P Burnell (London Scottish), S Grimes (Glasgow Caledonians), D Hilton (Bath), M Leslie (Edinburgh Reivers), S Murray (Bedford), E Peters (Bath), A Pountney (Northampton), T Smith (Glasgow Caledonians), P Walton (Newcastle Falcons), G Weir (Newcastle Falcons)

OLYMPICS

Ganga to fight expulsion

By John Goodbody

ONE of the five International Olympic Committee (IOC) members facing expulsion advised Juan Antonio Samaranch against trying to oust him yesterday and said that the IOC president was "defending his own skin".

Jean-Claude Ganga, of the Congo, said that he would fight desperately to keep his IOC membership. The president of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa said that Samaranch "saves his skin by throwing opprobrium on the others".

"If he is trying to get rid of his friends, it will be dangerous for him," Ganga said. "I can count on at least 40 members [out of 111] who will vote against my exclusion. Never in my life will I resign."

Samaranch asked the six members who were recommended for expulsion by the IOC's executive board last Sunday to resign before the vote on March 17 and 18, when a two-thirds majority will be needed for expulsion. Only one, Charles Mukora of Kenya, has agreed.

Ganga insisted to *La Libération* newspaper in Paris that none of the benefits that he derived from his visits to Salt Lake City, the venue of the 2002 Winter Olympics, during the bidding process — including large medical bills and help in a huge real estate investment — were bribes.

GOLF: SPARKLING START BY DEVON PROFESSIONAL HAPPY TO BE BACK ON EUROPEAN TOUR AFTER YEARS OF STRUGGLE

Winchester's sights set high

By Our Sports Staff

ROGER WINCHESTER, of Devon, celebrated his return to the European Tour with a superb round of 65, seven under par, on the opening day of the Heineken Classic in Perth, Western Australia, yesterday.

Winchester's round, in which he had eight birdies, put him alongside Ernie Els, the world No 5 from South Africa, and only a stroke behind the leader, Jarmo Sandelin, of Sweden.

Andrew Coltart, of Scotland, who is pursuing a third victory on Australian soil, is only a shot behind Winchester and Els but, in the perfect conditions, Thomas Bjorn, the Dane defending his title, could manage no better than a 73.

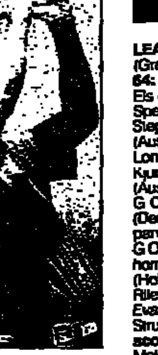
When Winchester, 31, won the English amateur title at the age of 18 in 1985, comparisons inevitably were made with Nick Faldo, who had charted that course a decade earlier. The Exeter-born player even tried to copy Faldo, taking lessons from David Leadbetter while at college in Florida and occasionally practising with the former Open and Masters champion.

He had high hopes of making a name for himself when he turned professional in 1990 but, three years later, he lost his playing card and had to revert to the secondary Challenge Tour. "It's difficult to break even on that and there were times when I wanted to give up the game," he said. "I completely lost my way."

"I was so confused technically and financially, it was terrible. It still is. I've had to sell a house in Wimbledon because I could not afford the mortgage and at the moment I'm renting a room in London for £40 a week."

Last season, however, he finally graduated from the Challenge Tour back to the main circuit by finishing in fourth place on the money list and is determined to make a success of it this time.

There was no hint of the dramatic improvement to come when he found himself one under after playing seven holes. Then he suddenly burst onto the leaderboard with five successive birdies around the turn and, by finishing with another, he joined Els in second place. The South African, twice US Open champion and already a winner of his country's PGA title this year, did not drop a stroke in his 65 and said: "I'm really pleased. With no wind, we'll probably never have a better chance to post a good score here and I'm not surprised I'm not leading."

Sandelin: first-round leader

Sandelin kept his 52-inch driver — nine inches longer than standard — in his bag for most of the day and collected no fewer than nine birdies. "It's a nice surprise," Sandelin, 31, said. "I've never started a tournament so well and that's one of the best rounds of my life."

Twice a winner on the European Tour, Sandelin still believes that he should have had another victory at the 1997 Lancôme Trophy. He finished second to Mark O'Meara, but months later saw video footage of the American appearing to replace his marker incorrectly during the final round and asked O'Meara to hand over the trophy to him.

The reigning Masters and Open champion agreed that the film looked bad, but argued that he had made no deliberate attempt to break the rules and was cleared when questioned by officials about the incident.

Coltart, who won the Australian PGA crown in Sydney in 1994 and 1997 and finally broke his duck on the European Tour last season with victory in the Qatar Masters, began with six straight pars but packed six birdies into the remaining 12 holes and lies in joint fourth position with Neil Kerry, of Australia.

SCORES

LEADING FIRST-ROUND SCORES (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 64: J Sandelin (Swe) 65: R Winchester, E Els (SA) 66: A Coltart, N Kerry (Aus) 67: C Spence (Aus), C Hanline (US) 68: R Stephens (Aus), S Conran (Aus), J Moseley (Aus), W Smith (Aus), H Bjornstad (Nor), P Lonard (Aus), A McLardy (SA) 69: Choi Kyung-ju (S Kor), P Fulke (Swe), J Senden (Aus), P Devenport (NZ), S Laycock (Aus), G Coles (Aus), C Hanell (Swe), A Hansen (Den), N O'Hern (Aus), E Mizoguchi (Japan), A Ratti, D Smail (NZ) 70: R Russell, G Orr, J L Guepy (Fr), T Elliott (Aus), A Bonhomme (Aus), B Langer (Ger), R J Derksen (Holl), S Leaney (Aus), P Broadhurst, W Riley (Aus), S Dodd, M Ecob (Aus), G Evans, M Long (NZ), R Swanson (Aus), S Struver (Ger), M Goggin (Aus) Other scores: 71: I Garbutt, M Pilkington, J McHenry, P Harrington, I Woosnam, P Baker, V Phillips, I Hutchings

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.golf.com/tour/page/heineken/1999/
TELEVISION: Sky Sports 1, 7-10am, 1.30-3.30pm, 7-9pm

Duval eclipsed by Smith's 55 strokes of pure genius

By Mel Webb

HYPERBOLE wasn't the word for it. David Duval's 59 to win the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic last Sunday was the greatest round of golf played. Then, out of the blue, from a quiet little town in Cumbria, the telephone rang. Fifty-nine was all very well, the venerable caller said, but was it known that the lowest score by a professional golfer had been produced by a little-known Englishman more than 60 years before? A performance that beat Duval's by four strokes, no less?

If 59 was great, what could be said about a 55? Could it be true? It could, and was. The sage on the line was Wilson Goad, before his retirement a lawyer in practice for more than 40 years. The author of a recently self-published work entitled *Golf is a Dangerous Game*, Goad, during his research, had unearthed the story of Alfred Edward Smith, whose mundanity in name and achievement had been made extraordinary by one remarkable round that guaranteed him an enduring place in the annals of the Royal and Ancient game.

Not only did Smith the Obscure play the round so described, he also did it on a course that no longer exists and which, moreover, was destroyed by the actions of the ancestors of the doughty Duval.

Alfred Edward Smith was a jobbing professional golfer who, in the 1930s, was the head professional of the Woolacombe Bay Golf Links in north Devon. A small, spare man of no more than 5ft 6in, he had a swing that was all his own and rarely needed more than one putt to get down.

Smith was, by any criterion, a journeyman professional. Except that on New Year's Day, 1936, he negotiated the 18 holes of his home club in 55 strokes; it is a record that, as far as is known, has never been beaten.

Woolacombe Bay measured only 4,248 yards and had a par, or bogey as it then was, of 70. Smith, at least one of whose hand-built, hickory-shafted clubs still exists, went out in 29 and came back in 26 with a hole in one at the 18th. Duval probably could play 4,248 yards of a golf course in about 35; he will never have the chance to prove it at Woolacombe Bay Golf Links.

Sixty years ago, the golf course nestled behind the beach, long and narrow. It exists no more, obliterated by the American Armed Forces, who used Woolacombe as a rehearsal stage for the D-Day landings.

And Smith? He died unrecognised for his feat, having spent, so the story goes, some of his latter years as a missionary. Deep into his eighties, it is said, he could still play to a handicap of eight, unless there was money around, in which case it was closer to four. By all accounts, even in his dotagem, he was something of a hustler. David Duval, one suspects, would have approved of Alfred Edward Smith.

NETBALL

Zinzan to lead by example

By Cathy Harris

JO ZINZAN is expecting a physical clash when she captains England for the first time in the 58th home international against Wales at the Welsh Institute of Sport in Cardiff tomorrow.

The 5ft 11in Middlesex defender, who has never been on the losing side against Wales, said: "I don't think they like playing against us. We won a close contest 48-39 last year and I suspect we'll have to work hard again."

Zinzan — a name derived from an Italian horseman at the court of Henry VIII — is one of ten Commonwealth Games bronze medal-winners included in the England line-up. She takes over as captain from Fiona Murtagh, who has retired. Anne Marie Muller is the only new cap, with Helen Lonsdale recalled after snapping her anterior cruciate ligament on the 1997 tour of South Africa.

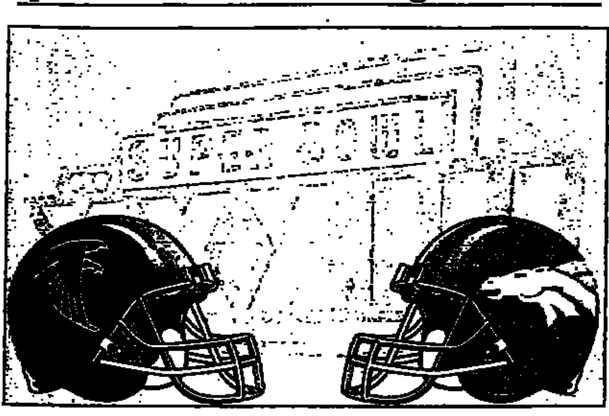
England have lost only once in this domestic series since 1949 and players will be staking their claims for the world championships in Christchurch in September. Jean Watson, the former Yorkshire coach, takes charge of plotting against the English after being given a 12-month contract with Wales.

ENGLAND: L Stanley (North Durham), T Neville (Greater Manchester), L Carpenter (Surrey), L Law, A M Muller, A Newton (Essex Met), H Lonsdale, H Mannulor, J Zinzan (Middlesex, captain), O Murphy, K Aspinall, N Siddall (Derbyshire)




Chandler finally rekindles career on the wane

Oliver Holt in Miami meets the quarterback who came good at last



To his right, the brash, trash-talking young running back was shooting his mouth off and spreading his creed. "Every day is a good day for Jamal Anderson," Jamal Anderson was saying as he stroked his bejewelled neck and did his best to project the image of insolence and utter invulnerability that is *de rigueur* in Super Bowl week. Chris Chandler shot him a sideways glance, smiled thinly and rubbed his bald patch.

Most people have never heard of Chandler. Until fortune relented and planted its sweet kiss on him last season, he was the Nowhere Man of American football, a journeyman quarterback, drifting from team to team, biting hard on rejection after rejection. He was sliding towards oblivion. "I thought I was finished," he said yesterday. "My career felt like slow death."

While men such as John Elway, his opposite number on Sunday, had progressions so gilded that they could actually afford to refuse to play for a team that they had been drafted by, Chandler, 33, got used to being shown the door just when he thought he had made it. Round-faced and balding, he was hardly a golden boy in the mould of Elway, Joe Montana or Troy Aikman. He did not even look the part.

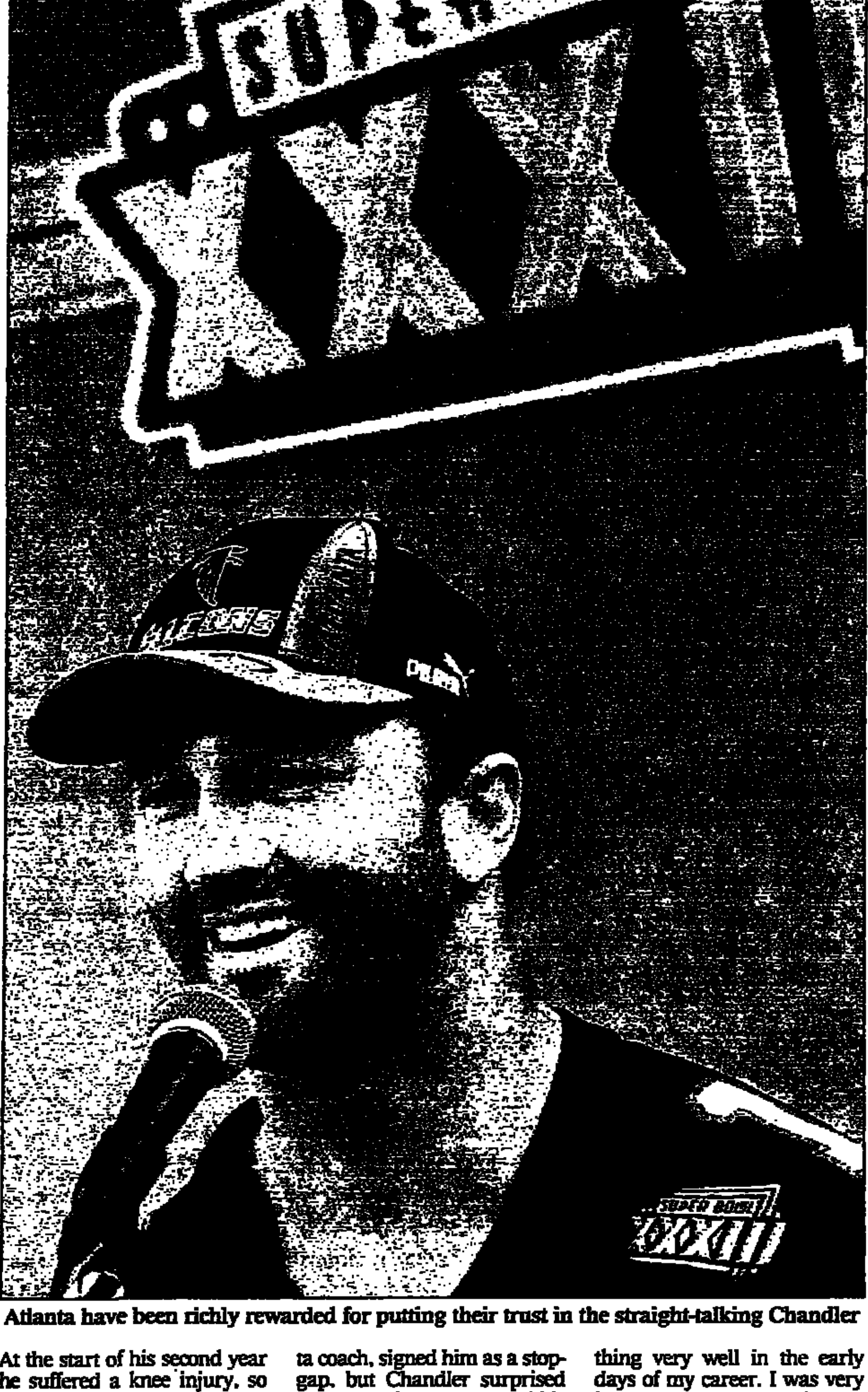
Such has been the transformation, though, that when he leads the Atlanta Falcons into their match against Elway's Denver Broncos at Pro Player Stadium here, many observers are convinced that he has proved himself the better of the two. In its perpetual search for examples of the existence of the American Dream, the nation is latching on to the rise of a man who was "one step away from the cheese line".

Chandler is a worthy subject of their admiration. He admits to weaknesses and mistakes, something increasingly rare in professional sport. He admits that he, more than anyone else, was at fault for his failures and he laughs at the fecklessness of those who say now, after one season of success, that he is better than Elway, better than the best. "To me, that is absurd," he said. "That amuses me."

His problems began soon after he joined the Indianapolis Colts, his first team, in 1988.



Chandler: transformation



MARC ASPLAND

Atlanta have been richly rewarded for putting their trust in the straight-talking Chandler

At the start of his second year he suffered a knee injury, so the Colts drafted a new quarterback and Chandler was moved on to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He spent two years as second string to Vinny Testaverde, "two years of not knowing why I was there".

Things seemed to have taken a turn for the better when he joined the Phoenix Cardinals in 1991, changed his attitude and decided that he needed to learn more about his trade and rid himself of some of the bitterness that had gripped him. "I thought I had all the answers back then," he said. "But I found out I didn't actually have many at all."

Chandler had an excellent season for the Cardinals in 1992, but at the beginning of 1993 Phoenix signed Steve Beuerlein and chose to start with him. He went to the Los Angeles Rams, who preferred to start with Chris Miller, and from there to the Houston Oilers, who promptly signed Steve McNair. He seemed condemned to a career in the purgatory of mediocrity.

Then, at the start of last season, Dan Reeves, the Atlanta coach, signed him as a stopgap, but Chandler surprised him with his accuracy and his durability, and gradually he gained his confidence.

This season, Reeves made it clear that he was putting all his faith in Chandler, who responded by inspiring the Falcons to 16 victories in 18 games and by orchestrating the drive that earned them their surprise win over the Minnesota Vikings a fortnight ago and booked the Falcons' place in their first Super Bowl.

"A few years ago, I never thought this would happen," he said. "Of course, I dreamt about it, but as the years went by the reality of it seemed further and further away. I usually agree with people when they say I have had a weird route to get here. But forgetting about what has happened in the past is the best way of dealing with it all for me.

"I didn't handle the whole thing very well in the early days of my career. I was very immature and I said all sorts of stupid things. In retrospect, I thought I might have reached the end of the road several times. A couple of stops ago, I thought it was probably the last stop. I never knew when my time was going to be up, when I was going to be leaving a team. I just tried to hang in there.

"I just feel fortunate that Dan Reeves has said that I am the one here, that the Falcons are going to win or lose with me. It is the first time that any organisation has put their trust in me. It is the first time that anybody has shown me any real commitment and I think the results speak for themselves."

To complete the picture, every one of the coaches who lost their faith in Chandler lost their jobs soon afterwards. The Falcons have just awarded him a four-year, $25 million contract extension with a $6 million signing bonus. In every other NFL city in which he played, Chandler always rented a house. Last month, at last, he bought one.

LINKS
WEBSITES: superbowl.lycos.com
www.nfl.com
TELEVISION:
Sky Sports One, Sunday 10.30pm (live)

SNOOKER

Bingham keeps calm to humble Higgins

STUART BINGHAM, who marked his debut in the final stages of a world-ranking tournament by beating Tony Drago 5-0 on Monday, expanded his giant-killing portfolio with a 5-4 defeat of John Higgins in the last 16 of the Welsh Open at Cardiff yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

Bingham compiled breaks of 61 and 57 in building a 3-0 lead but Higgins fought back to 4-4. It looked a classic case of an inexperienced hopeful freezing on the threshold of overcoming one of the game's most easily recognisable figures, but Bingham retained sufficient composure to win an extremely scrappy decider.

"I've never done anything remotely like this before. I'm speechless," Bingham said. He now meets Peter Ebdon or Joe Swail in the next round.

Stephen Hendry compiled breaks of 64, 54, 107 and 84 during his 5-4 victory over Matthew Stevens. The Scot restricted Stevens to a single point in recovering from a 4-3 deficit.

Steve Davis improved his chances of remaining in the top 16 in the rankings for an unprecedented twentieth consecutive season by tactically outwitting Fergal O'Brien on the way to a 5-0 win based more on guile than potting prowess.

Results, page 50

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 50

AGATHISM
(b) The doctrine that all things tend towards ultimate good, as distinguished from optimism which holds that all things are now for the best. The Greek *agathos* means "good". "Wilful evil, to the degree implied in the distinction between Agathism and Optimism, is inconsistent with our apprehension of His [ie, God's] nature".

BREVET
(b) An official or authoritative message in writing; especially a Papal Indulgence. From the French diminutive of *bref* a letter. In the Army, a document conferring nominal rank on an officer, but giving no right to extra pay. "This worthy Kyng hath his brevets and his letters sent for his lordes to holde a parlement."

AGEE
(c) Aside. On or to one side. Awry, off from the straight line. From A a preposition of state. + jee! a call to a horse to move to one side. 1837: "A looking-glass that don't make you look as if your face was all agee."

BELGARD
(b) A kind or loving look. An English adaptation of the Italian *bel guardo*, "lovely look". Spenser, *Faerie Queene*, 1590: "Upon her eyelids many graces sate...Working belgards and amorous retrate."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1. Nxg6+! hxg6: 2. Qh6+ and mate follows.

TELEVISION CHOICE

A docusoap with dignity

Country House
BBC2, 7.30pm

Although the strategy is conventional, a character-led narrative with a raft of overlapping stories, the documentary soap about Woburn Abbey continues to be different from most others of the genre. Dramas are not manufactured for the sake of grabbing viewers and the series eschews the usual jokey commentary delivered by a celebrity voice. But the low-key approach can be effective, allowing us to absorb the subject at our own pace and without feeling that we are being shouted at. Lord Tavistock's painstaking attempts to regain his facility with words after a stroke are relayed in quiet detail, as is Lady Tavistock's guarded delight at the emergence of a promising new racehorse.

Airline
ITV, 8.00pm

The everyday story of easyJet continues to evoke the world of cheap flights and the culture of the masses. Central to this is football and in tonight's episode some fans are off to France for the World Cup. Or would be, had the flight not been cancelled. There follows rapid horsetrading with passengers on another plane in the hope they can be bribed to swap their seats. Meanwhile Stelios, easyJet's young owner, is off to Seattle to buy new planes and Katrina, the check-in girl, is getting ready for her wedding. No programme would be complete without an awkward traveller. The latest is a young backpacker who has managed to get as far as Luton, by way of India and Australia, but will go no further unless he produces his passport.

Was It Good for You?
Channel 5, 8.00pm

Not so long ago any programme about naturism would have been newsworthy, let alone one going out at peak time. Familiarity may not breed contempt but it does reduce novelty value and we have seen so many naked bodies on the screen in recent weeks that a few more are neither here nor there. Ailsa Greenhalgh's report on two British couples holidaying in the buff in southern Spain is, in any case, sensible and snigger-free (except when it comes to Greenhalgh herself, who is happy to watch others stripping off but is coy about doing it herself). Mary and Chris, in their late fifties, are seasoned naturists and say it has helped to strengthen their marriage. Helen, twentysomething at a guess, also likes to holiday in the nude but for her boyfriend Mark it is the first time.



Helen Ludbrook and Mark Banville enjoy a naturist holiday in Spain (Channel 5, 8pm)

Garden Stories
BBC2, 8.30pm

When 14 of his immediate family died one after the other, Tony Wilkinson became so depressed that he started to drink heavily and contemplated suicide. Life had no further interest for him. Then he bought a copy of a gardening magazine, decided to plant the free seeds which came with it and thus started a process of gradual recovery, during which he came off the drink, saved his marriage and created a magnificent garden with 7,000 annuals. There can be no greater testament to the healing powers of gardening, though it is only one of many stories collected for this programme. We hear from a man who found solace in his garden after losing the mother to whom he was devoted and we visit a prison garden the care and planting of which is helping to rehabilitate a group of lifers.

Peter Waymark

Correction: Captain Robin Woodall was exonerated by Cunard Line after the *QE2* ran aground in 1992, and returned to his command, retiring in 1994 (TV Choice, January 18).

RADIO CHOICE

Jazz Century
Radio 3, 11.30pm

This is the repeat slot for the *Sounding the Century* jazz history transmitting on Saturday evenings but it gets an airing here because the repeat is more convenient for many listeners. Tonight the focus is 1917, an important year for jazz because until then, no jazz recording had been made. The honour went to the Original Dixieland Jazz Band (ODJB) and there are plenty who think their fame rests more in their place in record history than their actual status as a jazz outfit. The ODJB's first recordings, as can be heard tonight, were notable for the fact that they tended to be formulaic, with very little improvisation. As Russell Davies shows, the ODJB made absurd claims about its importance in the jazz pantheon.

The Friday Play: Jupiter
Radio 4, 9.00pm

Ageing novelist with violin for sale meets attractive young violinist seeking violin. The starting point is straightforward enough but as the story unwinds it becomes an absorbing and complex study of the writer, a man in pain of both the physical and emotional kinds: the violinist stirs memories of a relationship long ago. But there are other relationships in Stephen James's play: James uses the writer in two ways, directly at first as part of the relationship with the violinist, and indirectly throughout as the narrator of the somewhat tidal nature of the young woman's relationships with lovers, two of which are clearly of a transitory nature. Barbara Dryhurst is the violinist. Peter Jeffrey is the novelist.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00pm** Kevin Greening **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Pete Tong's Essential Selection **9.00** Judge Jules **11.00** Radio 1 Rap Show **2.00am** Fabio and Grooverider **4.00** Emma B

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00pm** Jimmy Young **2.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Sean Hughes **7.00** A Very British Story (4/4) **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night **9.15** Frankenstein (3/6) **9.30** Listen to the Band **10.00** David Jacobs **11.00** Believe It or Not **12.00am** Lynn Parsons **4.00** Lata Sharma

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00pm** The Midday News **1.00** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra. Presented by Susan Bookbinder **7.30** Alan Green's Sportsnight. Includes commentary on Stoke v Manchester City and a preview of the weekend's Australian Open tennis finals **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night **2.30** Australian Open Tennis. Jonathan Overend presents commentary on the ladies' singles final from Melbourne

VIRGIN

6.30am Danny Baker **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **7.00** Wheels of Steel **11.00** Janey Lee Grace **2.00am** Steve Power

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **3.00** OK! to Talk **5.00** The SportZone **8.00** Jackie Mason Live from New York **10.00** Dave Barrett **1.00am** Mike Dickin

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Westway **8.20** Off the Shelf: Silas Marner **8.35** Science in Action **9.00** World News **9.05** The Art of Translating **9.20** John Peel **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** On Your Behalf **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Focus on Faith **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Science in Action **2.30** Best on Record **3.00** World News **3.05** Football Extra **3.15** Performance **3.30** The Vintage Chart Show **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Multitrack: Alternative **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** Focus on Faith **7.00** World News **7.05** Science in Action **7.30** On Your Behalf **7.45** Off the Shelf: Silas Marner **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** Best on Record **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Multitrack: Alternative **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **11.45** Insight **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** Science in Action **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Meridian Books **2.00** The World Today **2.30** People and Politics **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.30** Weekend

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour. Plus, favourite pieces voted for in the Classic FM Top 300 **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones plays favourite music **2.00** Concerto. Vaughan Williams (Concerto Grosso) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics, plus sport updates and travel news **6.30** Newsnight. Top stories and interviews with guests from the arts world **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classic sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Corelli (Concerto Grosso No 8 in G minor); Boccherini (String Quintet in C minor); Albicastro (Coel Estes Angelici Chori); Schubert (Quartet No 2 in F minor). Tartini (Violin Concerto in G); Vivaldi (Stabat Mater) **11.00** Mann at Night **2.00am** Concerto. Vaughan Williams (Concerto Grosso) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny. Includes a review of Ostrovsky's *The Forest*, which opened last night at the National Theatre
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Includes Vaughan Williams (Overture: The Wasps); Schubert (Piano Sonata in E minor, D566)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Midori
11.00 Sound Stories The Tudors and the Stuarts Donald Macleod investigates Queen Anne
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Tavener
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert David Hill, organist of Winchester Cathedral, joins forces with the pianist Stephen Coombs for a duo recital
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Philharmonic under Paavo Jarvi and Donald Hunt, Leonidas Kavakos, violin, Judith Howarth, soprano, Paul Whelan, baritone, Three Choirs Festival Chorus
4.00 Music Restored with Lucie Skeaping (r)
4.45 Music Machine with Tommy Pearson
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty is joined by the British acappella group Black Voices
7.30 Performance on 3 Live from St David's Hall, Cardiff. BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Mark Wigglesworth, Mario Brunello, cello, Christine Brewer, soprano, Susan Bickley, mezzo, Ian Caley, tenor, Neal Davies, bass, Adrian Partington, organ, BBC National Chorus of Wales, City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus. Dvorak (Cello Concerto in B minor) **8.10** A Sound Read. Ivan Hewett is joined by Rabbi Julia Neuberger and critic and broadcaster Valentine Cunningham to review recently released books on music **8.30** Concert, part two. Janacek (Glagolitic Mass)
9.25 Postscript: Dissenting Voices George Monbiot introduces excerpts from the writing of the 17th-century activist Gerard Winstanley
9.50 BBC Symphony Orchestra (Sounding the Century) A concert celebrating the work of the Italian composer Luigi Nono, born 75 years ago today. Conductor Tadaaki Otaka, Nicole Tibbels, soprano, Thomas Randle, tenor, Nicolas Hodges, piano, Andre Richard, sound projection
11.30 Jazz Century See Choice (r)
12.00am Composer of the Week: Purcell (r)
1.00 Through the Night with Donald Macleod. **1.00** Bergen PO under Jonathan Nott. Wagner (Prelude and Liebestod, Tristan und Isolde); Svendsen (Symphony No 1) **2.35** Beethoven (Piano Trio in B flat, Op 97, Archduke) **3.15** Beethoven (Triple Concerto in C) **3.55** Dvorak (Symphony No 9 in E minor, From the New World) **5.25** Rachmaninov (Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Rural news
6.00 Today with John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 Desert Island Discs Ruth Prawer Jhabvala (r)
9.45 (FM) Serial: The Victorian Internet David Rintoul reads from Tom Standage's history of the electric telegraph (5/5) (r)
9.45 (LW) An Act of Worship
10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray
11.00 Music on the Brain Peter Snow traces the origins of background music (r)
11.30 The Oldest Member: The Heart of a Goof by P.G. Wodehouse, with Michael Fenton Stevens, Helen Atkinson Wood and Jon Glover (5/6)
12.00pm (FM) News
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.04 You and Yours Liz Barclay and John Waite present consumer issues
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Puzzle Panel Chris Maslanka presents riddles and brain-teasers
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: The Orchestra Comic study of the small-town gossip and back-biting within a brasserie orchestra in 1950s provincial France. With Joanna Wake and Janine Ulfane (r)
3.00 Logged On Quentin Cooper assesses contemporary issues of the computer age
3.30 Desperately Seeking Investigation into people who place newspaper small ads, and the results they achieve (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle The history of Britain, with readings by Roger May
4.00 Open Book Humphrey Carpenter explores foreign fiction for children. Plus, a look at the art of thriller writing (r)
4.30 The Message Alex Brodie and his guests discuss current media trends
5.00 PM with Clare English and Eddie Mair
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Ghost of Number Ten Lottie aims to eradicate world hunger at the G7.5 summit in Downing Street. Political farce, by Steve Nallon and Turan Ali (4/6)
7.00 The Archers Hayley suffers a betrayal
7.15 Front Row Francine Stock presents the nightly arts programme
7.45 Inner Voices by Rikkie Beadle Blair. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (5/10) (r)
8.00 Any Questions? Harriet Harman, Nicola Horlick, Peter Lilley and Andrew Phillips respond to questions from an audience in Bishop Stortford, Hertfordshire
8.45 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke
9.00 The Friday Play: Jupiter An old man's dreams of attracting a younger woman could prove his downfall. Stephen James's play. See Choice
10.00 The World Tonight with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Sound of Trumpets by John Mortimer. Terry Fitton suffers an unfortunate incident at the Harriscombe Hunt and subsequently has his picture emblazoned all over the papers
11.00 (FM only from 11.30) Late Night on 4: Late Tackle Live from Miami, Eleanor Oldroyd and guests discuss the significance of American football's Superbowl
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Update from Westminster
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: Round Ireland with a Fridge Final part of Tony Hawks' epic voyage around the Emerald Isle with his curious choice of travelling companion
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. *FM* 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**



Catching sight of genius through the crowd

One of the great unsolved mysteries of world art is why the British say "Van Goff", and the Americans say "Van Go", whereas the Dutch themselves say something like "F'n Ghghurghgh. Oh, sorry. Would you like a tissue?" But then we say "*Monnay*", and they say "Moa*nay*" while the French say something poised decorously between the two.

Fortunately Loyd Grossman did not feature on ***Mad About Monet*** (BBC1), or the father of Impressionism would have sounded like a cheese sauce played at slow speed. *He would not* have been out of place, however, in the company of oddballs from the worldwide fraternity of Monet nerds, who peopled this peculiar, hybrid documentary.

Mostly it was a completely conventional biography. Contrary to the mythology, artists, like writers, *often have surprisingly* dull private lives. *Their diaries* read: early breakfast, painting, lunch, lots more painting, dinner, played with cat, early bed. They *spend* far more time than most of us watching paint dry.

Despite the fact that he spearheaded a revolution in approach to art (actually he developed it from techniques pioneered in England by Turner and Whistler), Monet's life was relatively uneventful and domestic. He was too busy *exploring the possibilities* of colour to be colourful himself. Life in his last home at Giverny was, we were told, almost "monastic".

Even the characterful anecdotes revolved around the success of his work — Monet cultivating his image as the artist out in nature, taking journalists to wild, dangerous locations. Monet misreading the tide timetables and almost getting washed off a Normandy beach. Monet feverishly juggling 20 or 30 *canvases as he tries to capture the shifting light patterns on a line of* poplars, losing it and throwing the lot into the river, easel and all.

The programme, like the artist, lived through the paintings. There were some illuminating comments, but personally I didn't feel anybody really got *inside that* extraordinary genius. Shots of rare or unusual works reminded us that he can still surprise us, despite decades of over-reproduction, although all were whipped from our sight with unseemly haste.

But the critical biography was intercut with another documentary about the Monet phenomenon, so the slightly disappointing art appreciation class was forever being interrupted by obsessives, reminding you why you no longer enjoy looking at his paintings.

There was Jason, the Burton hairdresser, inspired by Athena *reproductions to convert his salon,*

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

"Monet's", into a shrine, packed with flowers and Monet prints. There was Scott, the New England businessman, joining the stratospheric bidding for originals, seeing ownership as the ultimate symbol of wealth and cultivation. The *S*-shaped line of poplars looked like a dollar sign, observed the Sotheby's man, drily.

And then there were the middle-*aged painters in anoraks, trying to recreate the paradise of Monet's* Giverny garden by a bleak, reed-fringed English pond.

In the end the programme performed a really useful service. I remembered that flush of awe and pleasure when I first saw his work, and realised I had fallen out of love, not with the paintings, but *with other people's love of them.* Next stop the Royal Academy.

But what's an artistic reputation when the fate of the Universe is at stake? If you attempt to explain the theories of astrophysics or cosmology in everyday language they tend to sound rather dumb. Towards the end of *From Here To Infinity* (BBC2), last night's **Horizon**, I began to think that this is because they *are* really dumb.

This was the gist. "We figured out that the *Universe probably* began 15 billion years ago when it exploded in a ginormous fireball from a point of infinite density. Ever since then it has been expanding. But we reckon it must be slowing down (because that's what usually happens after an explosion). Eventually its own gravity will start to pull it all back in again, and it will collapse into itself in a 'big crunch'".

I myself have hypothesised in *this newspaper* a *"big boing"* theory, whereby the Universe keeps pulsing in and out at hundred-billion-year intervals, but for some reason this seems to have been ignored by physicists.

Now Saul Perlmutter has developed a system for spotting supernovae, exploding stars several jillion times brighter than ordinary stars, which occur very rarely and last only a few weeks. These, apparently, enable you to measure *the speed of expansion of the* further reaches of the Universe.

Perlmutter and others have discovered that these stars are not slowing down, but speeding up. The Universe is flying apart ever faster. This has really upset the apple-cart. The boffins are appalled; some are even in denial. They can't understand what is pushing the Universe apart. *Some mysterious* force must be operating in the vacuum of space, overcoming gravity.

Excuse me if this sounds dumb. *But since they* haven't worked out how a point of infinite density came to be floating around in the void of eternity, and since they have no idea what made it explode, why do they think they can figure out what it's going to do next? How can you work out what the effects or duration of an explosion are going to be, if you haven't got the faintest idea what caused it in the first place?

"Knock, knock, knock!" yell the *customs officers on* ***The Knock*** (ITV). "Who's there?" we reply. "Ivor." "Ivor who?" "Ivor Surfeitofclichésinanotherwise-entertainingscript."

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (70558)
7.00 Breakfast News (T) (16287)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (8145417)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (5681287)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (7477981)
11.00 Real Rooms (7567558)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (7464417)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (1680813)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (14726)
12.30 Wipeout (3019558)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (55721610)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (13146)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (86178417)
1.40 Neighbours Karl has his car stolen (T) (65858233)
2.05 Ironside (r) (7141707)
2.55 Body Spies Keep-fit routines for busy parents (1097418)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (1277702) **3.45** Spider (9552813) **3.50** Smart on the Road (8978875) **4.05** Rugrats (9031875) **4.30** L & K Friday (1101078) **4.55** Newsround Extra (1595523) **5.10** Blue Peter (6070233)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (747455)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (233)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (813)
7.00 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook Light-hearted culinary contest with *Coronation Street's* Martin Hancock and Jane Danson (T) (4320)
7.30 Top of the Pops Includes performances by the Offspring, Terrorvision, Gay Dad, Sebadoh and 911 (T) (487)
8.00 Vets in Practice Sam is called on to calm the urges of a stallion (T) (1928)
8.30 A Question of Sport with Sue Barker. Stuart Pearce, Mark Richardson, Matt *Dawson and Matthew Pinsent join regular* team captains Ally McCoist and John Parrott (T) (9875)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (7639)



Warren Beatty joins Michael Parkinson in conversation (9.30pm)

9.30 Parkinson The comedian-cum-actor Alan Davies joins Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and the Hollywood icon Warren Beatty on the acclaimed chat show (T) (423523)
10.25 Lock Up (1989) Sylvester Stallone stars as a *tough convict transferred* by a sadistic warden to a brutal high-security prison. Thriller, with Donald Sutherland. Directed by John Flynn (T) (163455)
12.05am The Stand-Up Show Comedy series, hosted by Ardal O'Hanlon (5462498)
12.35 The Big End A Merseyside man with a sideline in detection (r) (T) (5468160)
1.05 Blue City (1986) A drifter sets out to *unmask his father's murderer, starring* Judd Nelson and Ally Sheedy. Directed by Michelle Manning (T) (2203092)
20 Weather (9017030)
'5 Tennis: Australian Open The women's singles final (31862479)
) BBC News 24 (399585)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Hairy Jeremy (9247815) **7.05** Teletubbies (2403252) **7.30** Secret Squirrel and Co (3382184) **7.55** Short Change (2706726) **8.18** Rewind (8185184) **8.20** Taz-Mania (9336504) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (8788287) **8.50** Johnson and Friends (8604271) **9.00** Storytime (7531542) **9.10** See You, See Me (6957707) **9.30** Numbertime (8720639) **9.45** Come Outside (8718894) **10.00** Teletubbies (90707) **10.30** Megamaths (3669962) **10.50** Look and Read (3689726) **11.10** Landmarks (1935726) **11.30** English File (6146) **12.00pm** Scene (12368) **12.30** Working Lunch (30252) **1.00** Johnson and Friends (73149962)
1.10 The Great Picture Show (r) (82045726)
1.40 The Arts and Crafts Show Cloth floor coverings. Last in series (65879726)
2.10 Sporting Greats (22685900)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (8428165)
2.45 Match of their Day (3/15) (9524374)
3.25 News; Weather (T) (2464726)
3.30 For the Future: The Irvine Fertility Scandal (TVM 1996) A couple are shocked to discover the truth behind their infertility treatment at a supposedly respectable clinic. With Marilu Henner. Directed by David Jones (T) (88184)
5.00 Tennis: Australian Open Highlights of the second men's semi-final (1233)
6.00 The Simpsons (r) (T) (784252)
6.20 The Simpsons (r) (T) (795368)
6.45 European Figure Skating Championships *Coverage from Prague* (983374)
7.30 CHOICE Country House Lady Tavistock puts her money on a new racehorse to revive the fortunes of Woburn Abbey's stud (T) (639)
8.00 Gardening from Scratch Jani and Rob create a wildflower meadow (r) (T) (1610)
8.30 CHOICE Garden Stories A look at the therapeutic benefits of gardens (T) (7417)
9.00 Gimme Gimme Gimme Offers of television work flood in for Tom (T) (8981)



More madcap comedy with Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer (9.30pm)

9.30 Bang, Bang, It's Reeves and Mortimer The usual pan-slinging escalates to the point where whole cookers are being *thrown* (5/6) (T) (27788)
10.00 The Young Ones The students hold a party (r) (T) (13097)
10.30 Newsnight With Kirsty Wark (T) (826981)
11.18 Video Nation Shorts (T) (996639)
11.20 European Figure Skating Championships Free dance coverage (688558)
12.00am The Wizard of Loneliness (1988) A youngster is sent to live with his grandparents *and* soon learns a few disturbing facts about his family. Starring Lukas Haas and Lea Thompson. Directed by Jenny Bowen (T) (811566)
1.45 Weather (8666030) **1.50** Close
3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Bitesize Revision. History 1 (65160) **5.00** Close

HTV

5.30am ITN Morning News (80720)
6.00 GMTV (6260542)
9.25 Trisha (T) (3034813)
10.30 This Morning (T) (24601523)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (9828691)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (T) (34078)
12.59 HTV Crimestoppers (55723078)
1.00 WEST: Shortland Street Lionel receives bad news (31542)
1.00 WALES: Wish You Were Here? Mallorca, Rimini and Great Yarmouth (r) (T) (31542)
1.30 Home and Away Vinnie and Sally draw closer (T) (33349)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (2375097)
2.45 Supermarket Sweep (T) (109875)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (2462368)
3.20 HTV News (T) (2452981)
3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (2442504) **3.35** Timbuctoo (9558097) **3.40** Animal Stories (9539962) **3.50** Adam's Family *Tree* (8094829) **4.20** *Gladiators: Train 2* Win (9038788) **4.50** Top Ten of Everything (9631252)
5.10 A Country Practice Tom makes a shocking discovery (6604310)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (T) (345146)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (603813)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight The final report from South Africa; Weather (T) (557271)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (959639)
6.30 WEST: The West Tonight (T) (981)
7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right Popular game show (T) (6788)
7.30 Coronation Street *Rita meets Sharon's* fiance (T) (165)



Jane Boulton, assistant supervisor for Reed Aviation (8pm)

8.00 CHOICE Airline World Cup chaos descends on the staff at Luton Airport (T) (5436)
8.30 Neighbours from Hell Chilling insight into life on the Cranhill estate on the outskirts of Glasgow (T) (7271)
9.00 Tilly Trotter Final part of the Catherine Cookson drama (4/4) (T) (7981)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (38833)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (755184)
10.40 Friday Night's All Wright With Paul Whitehouse and Charlie Higson. Last in series (10/10) (917287)
11.30 Millennium Frank Black investigates the mysterious suicides of identical twin girls born seven years apart (r) (74455)
12.30am Pirate TV Offbeat guide to adventure sports (9196498)
1.05 Georgy Girl (1966) Swinging Sixties comedy about dowdy dance teacher Lynn Redgrave and her relationships with men. Co-starring James Mason. Directed by Silvio Narizzano (535160)
2.55 The Haunted Fishtank (r) (7397295)
3.25 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (9370011)
4.25 Soundtrax (28098905)
4.45 ITV Nightscreen Behind the scenes of ITV programmes (88978905)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (68498)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (6451639) **1.00 Wish You Were Here?** (r) (T) (31542) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (9473894) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (100504) ***3.20-3.25 Central News*** (T) (2452981) **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (6604310) **6.25-7.00 Central News;** Weather (T) (557271) **10.30-10.40 Central News;** Weather (T) (755184) **11.30 Tales from the Crypt** (83417) **12.00am Short Story Cinema** (5169160) **12.35 FILM: Steel Justice** (T) (979214) **2.15 Box Office America** (18450) **2.45 SeaQuest 2032** (r) (T) (6306924) **3.35 The Haunted Fishtank** (r) (14763837) **4.05 Central Jobfinder '99** (T) (8487450) **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (4788905)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (9828691) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (6532558) **1.00 Westcountry Update** (31542) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (9473894) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (100504) **3.20-3.25 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (2452981) **5.08 Birthday People** (8066788) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (6604310) **6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (T) (42097) **10.30-10.40 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (755184) **11.30-12.30 Renegade** (74455)

[illegible]

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (9828691) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (6604310) **6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight** (T) (42097) **10.30 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (755184) **10.40 Dream Town** (784455) **11.10 Friday Night's All Wright** (10/10) (613639) **12.00am-12.30 Tales from the Darkside** (53905) ***5.00-5.30 Freescreen*** (T) (68498)

[illegible]

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 News** (6451639) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (6604310) **6.00 News** (T) (829) **6.30-7.00 Off the Beaten Track** (1/10) (981) **10.30-10.40 News** (T) (755184) **11.30-12.30 Bob Monkhouse on Campus** (74455)

[illegible]

Starts ***5.55am Sesame Street*** *(r) (45405788)* **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (47468542) **9.00 Ysgolion:** Off Limits (98791639) **9.25 Schools at Work** (72903165) **9.30 Eureka** (89098542) **9.45 Stop, Look, Listen** (89091097) **10.00 The Complete Cosmos** (71228165) **10.10 TVM** (35321287) **10.25 Iaith ar Daith** (35237894) **10.45 Enter the Maths Zone** (39561707) **11.00 The Technology Programme** *(18508252)* ***11.15 Pa Newydd?*** *(18598875)* **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (24324097) **12.00pm Home Improvement** (T) (16049252) **12.30 Sesame Street** (T) (38041726) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (47541829) **1.30 Earthscape** (T) (69305349) **1.40 FILM: A Challenge for Robin Hood** (T) (38487851) **3.30 Hampton Court Palace** (T) (56721233) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (56740368) **4.30 Dishes** (T) (56739252) **5.00 Planed Plant** (T) (73989982) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (56720504) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (69609894) **6.10 Heno** (T) (95301691) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (83884338) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (56730981) **8.00 Cefn Gwlad** (T) (77589946) **8.30 Y Clwb Rygbi** (T) (92339243) **9.00 Pawb a'i Farn** (57277946) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (54598894) **10.35 Frasier** (T) (67420097) **11.05 Graham Norton: So Connected** (T) (92411165) **11.45 TFI Friday** (47745320) **12.45am Streetmate** (T) (23947295) **1.15 NME Premier Live Shows** (2/4) (26722547) **1.50 4 Later;** The RuPaul Show (12645924) **2.20 Late Toon: Crimplene** (T) (30714450) **2.30 The Mod Squad** (47458059) **3.25 Vidz** (65945653) **3.55 FILM: The Iron Curtain** (87062363) **5.20 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.50am Magic Roundabout (r) (7321788)
5.53 Animal Alphabet (7321788)
5.55 Sesame Street (r) (4250900)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (36097)
9.00 Schools: Off Limits (6947165) **9.25** Schools at Work (7779707) **9.30** Eureka (8715707) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (8703962) **10.00** The Complete Cosmos (4241691) **10.10** TVM (9916252) **10.25** Ulster Unearthed (9008287) **10.45** Enter the Maths Zone (5470829) **11.00** The Technology Programme (6947875) **11.15** Stage One (6960726)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (4542)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (88356)
12.30 Bewitched (r) (T) (25320)
1.00 Pet Rescue (r) (T) (39184)
1.30 Roots to Success *(T) (66185707)*
1.45 Between Heaven and Hell (1956) Robert Wagner stars as an arrogant Southern landowner whose experiences of combat in the Pacific cause him to change his ways. Directed by Richard Fleischer (T) (77993610)
3.30 Hampton Court Palace (T) (287)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (894)
4.30 Countdown (T) (1194788)
4.55 Ricki Lake Mothers meet their first loves (T) (4205146)
5.30 Pet Rescue A puppy learns how to *behave (T) (558)*
6.00 TFI Friday Chris Evans is joined by Michelle Collins, Deborah Harry and Phil Tufnell (40639)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (939146)
7.55 Music of the Millennium British soul diva Beverley Knight (T) (862184)
8.00 The Lost Gardens of Heligan An early mass-produced glass house is restored to its former glory (4/6) (r) (T) (3078)
8.30 Brookside (T) (5813)
9.00 Friends The gang celebrate new year with a party (r) (T) (4879)
9.30 Streetmate Davina McCall visits Liverpool and Norwich (T) (45184)
10.00 Frasier Niles and Frasier miss out on a hot new show (T) (38815)



Graham Norton presents highlights of his chat show series (10.30pm)

10.30 Graham Norton: So Connected Highlights from the first series (443707)
11.10 King of the Hill Dale applies to be a bounty hunter (T) (107523)
11.40 TFI Friday (r) (414165)
12.45am NME Premier Live Shows Performances by Mansun, Gay Dad, Chicks and Witness (2/4) (3722905)
1.20 4 Later; The RuPaul Show (1085924)
1.50 Late Toon: Crimplene (8649363)
2.00 The Mod Squad (9474924)
2.55 Vidz Offbeat video reviews (r) (7395837)
3.25 The Iron Curtain (1948) Fact-based thriller about a clerk working at the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa who passed on top-secret *information* to the USA. William A. Wellman directs (T) (3871586)
4.50 Pearl (r) (48442653)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport Headlines (7373097)
7.00 WideWorld Part one. Mark Chase assesses attitudes toward creative women *(r) (T) (9461900)*
7.30 Milkshake! (5904243)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (9192813)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (1532504)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (1531875)
9.00 Mixing It (r) (T) (1555455)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6991349)
10.20 Sunset Beach Annie receives a mysterious phone call (T) (2599097)
11.10 Leeza (2479523)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (1535691)
12.30 Family Affairs Chris offers to re-new his wedding vows (r) (T) (9301320)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Sally mourns Saul's death (T) (9460271)
1.30 The Roseanne Show Sharon Stone talks frankly with Roseanne about her life *and career; 5 News Update (9300691)*
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (6721691)
2.30 Good Afternoon (4920455)
3.30 Take Your Best Shot (TVM 1982) An unemployed actor with a disintegrating marriage struggles to turn his life around. Comedy, starring Robert Urich. Directed by David Greene (9004146)
5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T); 5 News Update (6553675)
6.00 100 Per Cent Quiz (5682900)
6.30 Family Affairs Disaster strikes on Roy and Mel's wedding day (T) (5673252)
7.00 5 News; *Weather (T) (6732707)*
7.30 Wild Water New series. How dolphins have learnt to live in groups, establishing close relationships with their companions (T) (5679436)
8.00 CHOICE Was It Good for You? Ailsa Greenhalgh follows sun-worshippers to a naturist retreat on the southern coast of Spain (4/14) (6741455)
8.30 Holiday Park (4/5) (T) (6720962)
9.00 A Promise to Carolyn (TVM 1996) True-life drama about two sisters who unite to bring to justice the stepmother whose abusive behaviour traumatised them during their formative years. Swoosie Kurtz and Delta Burke star. Directed by Jerry London (T), 5 News Update (12789788)
10.50 Poltergeist: The Legacy A secret society is formed to combat the forces of darkness, aiming to do away with a supernatural power contained within an ancient Irish sepulchre (r) (T) (68550558)
12.30am The Happy Hooker (1975) Erotic adult drama based on a true story, starring Lynn Redgrave as the infamous brothel-keeper Xaviera Hollander. With Jean-Pierre Aumont. Directed by Nicholas Sgarro (9737566)
2.20 The Democratic Terrorist (1992) A Navy officer infiltrates a terrorist group, but finds his integrity threatened by an intense physical attraction to one of the passionate partisans. Thriller, starring Stellan Skarsgard. Directed by Pelle Berglund (3155214)
4.05 Night Stand *Spoof talk show (9769721)*
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H Meg's appointment as Deputy Governor frustrates Joan (3498872)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (5904027)

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ONE

Count Duckula (56875) **7.30** Simp- 610) **8.00** Simpsons (33329) **8.30** d Squares (52900) **9.00** Sally aphael (42287) **10.00** Oprah Win- 34) **11.00** Guilty! (57558) **12.00pm** ones (77707) **1.00** Mad About You **1.30** Jeopardy (80271) **2.00** Sally aphael (42184) **3.00** Jenny Jones **4.00** Guilty! (94900) **5.00** Star Trek pace Nine (2381) **6.00** Married — ldren (6813) **6.30** *Friends (7165)* The Simpsons (3610) **7.30** The ons (3349) **8.00** Beat the Crusher 4) **9.00** World's Most Incredible Animal Rescues 3 (57418) **10.00** Cops (31417) **10.30** Cops (40165) **11.00** Friends (75829) **11.30** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (41726) **12.30am** Highlander: The Series (60978) **1.30** Long Play (5431672)

SKY BOX OFFICE

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SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26)
Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
The Borrowers (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
The Wings of the Dove (1997)
The Devil's Advocate (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
Fathers' Day (1997)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm *Short Attention Span Cinema* (7717691) **8.00 The Net (1995)** (7729436) **10.00 The Pillow Book (1995)** (88221707) **12.10am Singles (1992)** (8928635) **1.50 Miami Rhapsody (1995)** (1127382) **3.30 Mickey One (1965)** (8348189) **5.05** Cinema of Unease (1976547) **6.00** Close

SKY PREMIER

6.00am The Borrowers (TVM 1974) (78441) **8.00 Napoleon and Samantha (1972)** (31078) **10.00 Green Card (1990)** (63558) **12.00pm That Thing You Do! (1996)** (27829) **2.00 Napoleon and Samantha (1972)** (859287) **3.40 Green Card (1990)** (816252) **5.30 Moby Dick (1997)** (382441) **8.00 That Thing You Do! (1996)** (11120) **10.00 The Glimmer Man (1996)** (795078) **11.35 Frankie and Johnny (1991)** (650691) **1.35am White** **My Pretty One Sleeps (1997)** (340214) **3.10 The Glass Cage (1996)** (645092) **4.45 The Borrowers (1974)** (7161653)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.30am Son of Godzilla (1967) (22523) **7.00 Godzilla vs Megalon (1976)** (70455) **9.00 Return to Snowy River (1988)** (46900) **11.00 Married to a Stranger (1997)** (13894) **1.00pm Chasing the Deer (1994)** (24788) **3.00 Return to Snowy River (1988)** (45542) **5.00 Bury Me in Niagara (1992)** (46349) **7.00** P (5078) **7.30** UK Top 10 (8417) **8.00** Femmes Fatales (4726) **8.30** Movie Magic (3233) **9.00 Two Much (1996)** (17349) **11.00 The Relic (1996)** (682165) **12.50am Bad Moon (1996)** (5022818) **2.10 The House of Frankenstein: Part One (1997)** (3822996) **3.40 The House of Frankenstein: Part Two (1997)** (51 3295)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Flying Tigers (1942) (8454504) **6.00 Destination Moon (1950)** (7832417) **8.00 The Hell with Heroes (1968)** (7837962) **10.00 I Walk the Line (1970)** (9663542) **11.40 The Notorious Landlady (1962)** (16810726) **1.45am Bad Medicine (1985)** (7794363) **3.55 Three Faces West (1940)** (77558363)

TNT

9.00pm WCW (79771900) **11.35** WCW Thunder (25357788) **1.30am The Haunting (1963)** (67537092) **3.30 The Karate Killers (1967)** (84339721) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

6.30am Futures in Sport **7.00** Live Golf: Heineken Classic **10.00** League Review **10.30** Futbol Mundial **11.00** Rugby Club **12.00pm** Aerobics **12.30** League Review **1.00** What a Weekend **1.30** Golf: Heineken **3.30** League Review **4.00** Trans World Sport **5.00** Futbol Mundial **5.30** What a Weekend **6.00** Sports Centre **7.00** Golf: Heineken **9.00** Wrestling **11.00** Sports Centre **12.00am** Hold the Back Page **1.00** Sports Centre **2.00** Wrestling **4.00** Hold the Back Page **5.00** Sports Centre

SKY SPORTS 2

6.00am Live International Cricket **1.30pm** What a Weekend **2.00** Trans World Sport **3.00** Survival of the Fittest **3.30** International Cricket **6.00** *Moto-Plus* **6.30** H2O **7.00** Live Friday Night Football **9.45** Snooker: Welsh Open **1.00am** H2O **1.30** Hold the Back Page **2.30** Sports Centre **3.30** US Golf: Phoenix Open **5.30** World Sport Special

SKY SPORTS 3

11.30am Futures in Sport **12.00pm** Moto-Plus **12.30** Live Snooker: Welsh Open **4.00** Futbol Mundial **4.30** Ice Hockey **7.00** World Sport Special **7.30** International Cricket **10.00** US Golf: Phoenix Open **12.00am** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Snowboarding **8.00** Car On Ice **8.30** Olympic Games **9.00** Tennis **1.00pm** Live Skating **4.00** Tennis **5.30** Live Skating **10.00** Tennis **11.00** All Sports **11.30** Extreme Sports **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am *Crossroads* ***7.30*** *Neighbours* **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** The House of Eliott **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders ***4.30*** *Rhoda* ***5.00*** *All Creatures Great and* Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** 2point4 Children **7.40** It Ain't Half Hot, Mum **8.20** Yes, Minister **9.00** The Thin Blue Line **9.40** Knowing Me, Knowing You with Alan Partridge **10.20** Ruby Wax Meets Roseanne ***11.00*** *The Bill* ***11.30*** *The Bill* **12.00am** Doctor Who **1.20** Blake's Seven **2.15** Best of the Old Grey Whistle Test **3.00** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am *Within These Walls* **7.00** On the Buses **7.30** Doctor in the House **8.00** Beadle's About **8.30** Up the Garden Path **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** thirtysomething **11.00** Hawaii Five-O **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** *Emmerdale Farm* **1.00** Nearest and Dearest **1.30** Agony **2.00** thirtysomething **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Saint **5.00** Hawaii Five-O **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** Mission: Impossible **8.00** The Love Boat **9.00** *Classic Coronation Street* **9.30** The Comedians **10.00** Jokers Wild **10.30** Hogan's Heroes **11.00** Granada Men and Motors

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **6.30** Power Rangers Turbo **7.00** Mortal Kombat **7.25** *Oggy and the Cockroaches* **7.30** Donkey *Kong Country* **8.00** Goosebumps **8.25** Sam and Max **8.35** Spiderman **9.00** X-Men **9.25** Fantastic Four **9.50** The Incredible Hulk **10.15** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **11.00** The Mouse and the Monster **11.05** Eek!Stravaganza **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Sam and Max **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.50** Spiderman **2.15** X-Men **2.40** Fantastic Four **3.05** The Incredible Hulk **3.30** Roy and Lisa's Big Ride **3.35** Mortal Kombat **4.00** Spid orman **4.25** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **4.50** Home to Rent **5.00** Goosebumps **5.25** Eerie, Indiana **5.50** Oggy and the Cock- roaches **5.55** Donkey Kong Country **6.25** Sam and Max **6.50** Eek!Stravaganza **7.00** Close



Vivian Wu and Ewan McGregor star in Peter Greenaway's enchanting romantic drama *The Pillow Book* (FilmFour, 10pm)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Gummi Bears **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.05** *Animal Shelf* ***9.15*** *Pocket Dragons* **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.10** Tots TV **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00pm** The Adventures of Spot **12.05** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.15** Tots TV **1.30** The Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** Quack Pack **2.30** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **7.50** Classic Toons **8.00 FILM: Big and Hairy (1998)** **9.35** Home Improvement **10.00** Dinosaurs **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by an Angel **12.00am** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Muppet Babies **6.30** Rocko's Modern Life **7.00** Catdog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Budgie the Little Helicopter/Anima *Antics/Family* Ness **12.00pm** Rugrats **12.30** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Clangers/King Rollo/Wombles/Bod **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Pippi Longstocking **4.00** Hey Arnold! *4.30 Rugrats 5.00 Sister Sister 5.30 Kenan* and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** Driven Crazy **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High **7.30** City Guys **8.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **8.30** Hang Time **9.00** Tempestt **10.00** Hollyoaks **10.30** Echo Point **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** California Dreams **12.00pm** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30** In the House **1.00** Tempestt **2.00** Hollyoaks **2.30** Echo Point **3.00** Ready Or Not **3.30** City Guys **4.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** In the House **5.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **5.30** Sweet Valley High **6.00** Hang Time **6.30** Movies, Games and Videos **7.00** USA High **7.30** Ready or Not

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team **9.00** LAPD **9.30** Cops **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Series **11.00 FILM: Leprechaun (1993)** **1.00am** Sex Bytes **1.30** Scary Sex **2.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **2.30** Cops **3.00 FILM: The Punisher (1990)** **5.00** LAPD **5.30** Bushido **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Roseanne **8.30** News Radio **9.00** Cybill **9.30 FILM: It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World (1963)** **9.30** GoGs **12.30am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.30** The Critic **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Soap **3.00** Wings **3.30** Nightstand **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **12.30** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **6.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** Amazing Stories **8.30** *Highlander: The Raven* **9.30** *The Hunger* **10.00 FILM: Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure (1988)** **11.45** Sci-Focus **12.00am FILM: Wicked City (1993)** **1.35** Sci-Focus <C F17> **2.00** The Guyver **2.30** 100 Years of Horror **3.00** The Twilight Zone ***3.30*** *Dark Shadows* ***4.00*** *Close*

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Craftwise **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.30** The Great Garden Game **10.00** Bloom **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** Two's Country: Get Stuck In **11.30** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **12.00pm** Our House Down Under **12.30** Doing it Up **1.00** Our House **1.30** Handitime **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Flightline **5.30** History's Turning Points **6.00** Animal Doctor **6.30** Wild Discovery: River of Bears **7.30** Beyond 2000 **8.00** Outback Adventures **8.30** Uncharted Africa **9.00** The Fastest Car on Earth **10.00** Barry Gray **11.00** Weapons of War **12.00am** Top Banana **1.00** History's Turning Points **1.30** Flightline **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm Profiles of Nature **1.00** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer **1.30** Australia Wild **2.00** Wild Rescues **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Australia Wild **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty ***6.30*** *Lassie* ***7.00*** *Animal* Planet Classics: The Andaman Islands **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Animal-X **9.00** Ocean Wilds **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Kenya's Killers **10.30** Vet School **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Seal Hunter's Cave **7.30** Wolves of the Air **8.00** The Shark Files: The Fox and the Shark **9.00** Mischievous Meerkats **10.00** Happy Trigger **10.30** Call of the Coyote **11.00** Wilds of Madagascar **12.00am** Tigon!

HISTORY

4.00pm The World at War: Pincers **5.00** Television: Window to the World **6.00** *The Curse of the Borgias* **7.00** The Big House: Alcatraz

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Food for *Thought* **10.00** First Taste **10.30** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.00** What's Cooking? **11.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Newman Meets **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** Gordon Ramsay's Passion for Flavour **2.00** *Can't Stand the Heat* **2.30** *Food Network Daily* **3.00** For Better, for Worse **3.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **4.00** New Chefs on the Block **4.30** Tessa Bramley's Country Kitchen **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** Philbert the Frog **6.30** Johnson and Friends **6.45** Tiny Tales **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.30** Tiny Tales **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Diet Show **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Living Issues **12.10pm** Animal Rescue **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Special Babies **1.40** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **2.10** LA Law **3.10** Living Room **4.00** Michael Cole **4.50** Rolonda **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** Murder Call ***9.00 FILM: When He's Not a Stranger (TVM 1989)*** **11.30** Sex Life Down Under **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV

5.30am Music Time **6.00** Sorry Meri Lorry ***6.30*** *Mast Mast Show* **7.00** Faith **7.30** News **8.00** Ghoomta Aaina **8.30** Salaam **9.00** Adhikar **10.00** Anhoni **11.00** Zaike Ka Safar **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm FILM: Hindi Movie: Zamane Deewan** **3.00** Zee Bangla **3.30** Its My Choice **4.00** Campus **4.30** Zee Zone **5.30** Amanat **6.00** Artist of the Fortnight **6.30** Zee and You: Showcase **7.00** Cinema Backdoor **7.30** Entertainment Express **8.00** News **8.30** Aashirwad **9.30 FILM: Hindi Movie: Saajan Chale Sasural** **12.00am** News **12.30** [illegible] **1.00** X-Zone **2.00 FILM: Hindi Movie: Aurat Aurat Aurat**

SAILING 50
Bullimore yearning for recognition as serious yachtsman

SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL 54
Chandler relishing opportunity to send Falcons soaring



FRIDAY JANUARY 29 1999

Unheralded Mauresmo overpowers Davenport to reach final

Teenager muscles in on the women's game

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN MELBOURNE

SHE bears the shoulders of a man and plays like one. So ventured Lindsay Davenport, the world No 1, who was sensationally bundled out of the Australian Open by Amelie Mauresmo, of France, yesterday. Mauresmo, unseeded, plays Martina Hingis, the defending champion, in the final tomorrow after Hingis subdued Monica Seles in the second semi-final.

Mauresmo's victory represents something of a statement on the future of women's tennis. The world junior champion in 1996, when she overwhelmed her fellow teenagers with her raw strength, Mauresmo now threatens to trample over all-comers in the senior game.

Hingis will start as a warm favourite to land her third successive Australian Open title, but in the longer term Mauresmo, 19, promises to raise the bar of performance to fresh heights. Her style resembles that of a Spanish male baseliner, deploying heavy top spin from her long, looping ground strokes. Such an approach requires considerable strength. Mauresmo possesses that in abundance.

"She does not hit the ball like any other girl," Davenport said. "Women's tennis isn't normally played like that. She hits the ball so hard, so strong. I thought I was playing a guy." When told of Davenport's comments, Mauresmo said: "I take that as a compliment. I need to feel very strong physically to play my game."

Christine Truman ventured similar thoughts when, 30 years ago, she first set eyes on Margaret Court. But Court, four times an Australian Open champion, did not have the hint of masculinity about Mauresmo's face, nor her masculine hands. Add to that Mauresmo's imposing physique, which she has developed through regular gym work, and you have the template for women's tennis in the 21st century. Power is increasingly the name of the game.

It was all too much for Davenport, who had not dropped a set in her previous 12 grand-slam matches. She was unable to handle Mauresmo's first service, which often reached velocities of 180kph, and succumbed 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 in 1hr 55min.

Even when Davenport established a 4-2 lead in the decisive set, she looked strangely vulnerable. It was almost as though Davenport, not Mauresmo, was appearing in her first grand-slam semi-final.

Culture clash..........7
Results..........50

Mauresmo has yet to win a tournament on the regular tour. Her junior record embraced titles at Roland Garros and Wimbledon in 1996, after which she was expected to make an immediate impression at senior level. A spate of minor injuries halted her in her tracks until, in May last year, she announced herself as an emerging force in Berlin.

On that occasion, Mauresmo fended off match points in qualifying, then accounted for Dominique van Roost, Davenport and Jana Novotna before falling to Conchita Martinez in the final. Her world ranking rose 80 places, to No 29, in 1998.

Mauresmo is here with her girlfriend, Sylvie Bourdon, who runs a tennis bar in St Tropez. Mauresmo moved permanently to St Tropez late last year and hired Christophe Fournerie, a journeyman professional, as her coach. She is bidding to become the first unseeded grand-slam champion since Chris O'Neil won here 20 years ago. O'Neil earned Aus $6,000 for her triumph; Mauresmo stands to collect $679,000 (about £270,000).

Remarkably, Mauresmo, unheralded before this tournament, is the elder of the finalists. Hingis is nine months younger and plainly fancies her chances of capturing her fifth grand-slam title. The two have played twice previously. Both times, Hingis won in three sets. In their most recent encounter, in July, Mauresmo actually led by a set and 4-1. Hingis remembers the meeting well.

"She has tended to choke once in a while when she was leading," Hingis said. "Even when she played against me, she made a few errors which she shouldn't have." Mauresmo was not found wanting against Davenport. She was a bastion of mental strength, imposing her presence on the best player in the world for the past six months.

Mauresmo also repelled two match points in her first-round match here, against Corina Morariu. However, her physique does not intimidate Hingis. "Serena Williams has stronger shoulders," Hingis said. "I don't think that she hits the ball very hard. I have a big chance to win this title again and I am definitely pleased that I don't have to play Lindsay in the final."

Hingis's 6-2, 6-4 defeat of Seles severed the latter's 33-game unbeaten streak in this tournament. Seles, seeded No 6, was a pale imitation of the player who accounted for Steffi Graf 24 hours earlier. She opened with a stream of unforced errors and never came to terms with Hingis's clever courtwork. A key factor was Hingis's high first-service ratio of 64 per cent.

The first men's semi-final, between unseeded opponents, went to Thomas Enqvist, who trounced Nicolas Lapentti 6-3, 7-5, 6-1. In the final on Sunday, Enqvist plays either Yevgeny Kafelnikov, seeded No 10, or Tommy Haas, who crossed swords in the early hours of this morning.

Meanwhile, Hannah Collin, of Surrey, reached the quarter-finals of the girls' singles when she dismissed Melanie Clayton, of Australia, 6-2, 6-4. Collin was due to play Nadejda Petrova, of Russia, seeded No 1, in the early hours.



Gym'll fix it: Mauresmo has worked hard to develop an imposing physique that helped to account for Davenport yesterday

LINKS

WEBSITE: www.ausopen.org

TELEVISION: Eurosport, 9am (live), 4pm, 10pm (highlights). BBC2, 5pm (highlights)

Collymore's plight leaves his manager bewildered

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

WHEN John Gregory, the Aston Villa manager, was asked for his definition of stress yesterday, his answer was emphatic. "Think of a 29-year-old player at Rochdale who has got three months left on his contract, a mortgage and three kids," he said. "I wonder what's going through his mind when he reads about all this."

Gregory's delivery was cold and unemotional, with little visible sympathy for the apparent plight of Stan Collymore, the temperamental Villa striker. On Monday, it was revealed that Collymore is suffering from stress, is seeking medical advice and will not be available to Villa in the foreseeable future.

With the move of Juninho, the Atlético Madrid midfield player, to Villa Park edging closer, Gregory was able to take some crumbs of comfort from a tiring and confusing week. Yet the continuing woes of Collymore bewilder him.

"Maybe I'm a bit old-fashioned," he said, "but it's an issue that is new to me and I don't think any other player at this club is likely to get like that. But then, I suppose no one has had the pressures like Stan has. I'm told it's stress. There are no substances or alcohol involved. Yes, we will give Stan our support, as we would any of our employees. How it will pan out? I really don't know. I'm a football manager, not a social worker."

He added: "I can't understand how someone in his position could end up like this. He's got a serious problem and only he can really sort it out. We've done everything to help him. He wanted to see someone about it and we've made that possible."

It is unlikely that Collymore, 28, can now play a prominent role in Villa's tilt at the FA Carling Premiership title. Gregory has tolerated, with gritted teeth, the player's frequent indiscretions — as did Brian Little, his predecessor — but his manner yesterday suggested that he will take no more.

Whether Collymore is genuinely stressed out or simply feeling sorry for himself — Gregory left little doubt as to his personal prognosis — the door, at least, has been left ajar. "Yes, I can see Stan playing again this season," Gregory said. "If he comes back in three months and plays well, he'll be in the team. But I've got 19 or 20 other lads I'm concentrating on."

Juninho, the former Middlesbrough player, would strengthen Gregory's hand should he join the club next week for a fee of about £10 million. He was impressed by what he saw at Villa Park on Wednesday.

Gianni Paladini, Juninho's advisor, said yesterday: "I'm 90 per cent certain that the deal will go through." Gregory was more cautious. "I think he's getting a bit carried away there," he said. "I'd say it's about fifty-fifty at the moment. I've spoken to one or two people about the lad and he's a genuine character. Even when Middlesbrough were facing relegation, he was trying his little heart out."



Collymore: stressed out

Juninho, 25, has made it clear that he does not want to return to Middlesbrough, who sold him for £12 million 18 months ago and hold a first option on him. However, any move from Spain hinges on a clause in his contract that states he is entitled to 20 per cent of the transfer fee.

Viv Anderson, the Middlesbrough assistant manager, said: "Because we have first option, Villa are legally bound to inform us when they have agreed a deal. Whenever we hear from them, we will decide on our response."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1627

ACROSS
1 Old City headgear (6,3)
6 A fruit: (full) dress (3)
8 Raise false alarm (3,4)
9 Warning hooter (5)
10 Sound reproduction equipment (2-2)
11 Figure of speech (8)
13 N African desert (6)
14 Steal pettily (6)
17 Heavy shower (8)
18 Simple card game: break (4)
20 Tiny pathogen (5)
21 Causing hurt (7)
22 Staff, shaft: 5½ yds (3)
23 Take to pieces (9)

DOWN
1 God of wine (7)
2 Normal (selfish) behaviour (3,2,3,5)
3 School, founded 1440 (4)
4 Blew heavily: was resentful (6)
5 Aus. island state (8)
6 Not (done) seriously (3,3,3,2,2)
7 One on last legs (5)
12 (Motion) put forward (8)
15 Forcibly push back (7)
16 Noisy commotion (6)
17 Underwater worker (5)
19 It. town, famous campanile (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1626

ACROSS: 1 Castor 5 Side 8 Fail 9 Singular 10 Misplace 11 Funk 12 Mentor 14 Pollux 16 Taxi 18 Trousers 20 Dormouse 21 Love 22 Myth 23 Tangle
DOWN: 2 Avarice 3 Tulip 4 Restaurateur 5 Soulful 6 Drain 7 Under protest 13 Triumph 15 Unravel 17 Agony 19 Salon

SOLUTION TO BOXING DAY TIMES TWO JUMBO Page 50

Ranatunga wins reprieve but Sri Lanka face World Cup ban

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN PERTH

SRI LANKA, the World Cup holders, may be prevented from defending the trophy when the competition is held in England this summer. That was a possible implication after an extraordinary four-hour disciplinary hearing convened by the International Cricket Council (ICC) into the behaviour of Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain.

Peter van der Merwe, the ICC match referee, decided reluctantly, after lengthy legal submissions, that he could not impose a suitable punishment on Ranatunga for his behaviour in Adelaide last Saturday. Now the ICC will revise its code, circle it with a ring of fire, and make sure constituent countries sign up, irrespective of what lawyers may argue. Sri Lanka have shown that they regard legal nitpicking more highly than either the spirit of the game or its laws, and if they do not amend that view then their invitation to take part in the World Cup — the ICC's showpiece event — could be rescinded.

Ranatunga threatened to take his players off the field, and told Ross Emerson, one of the umpires, that he, Ranatunga, was in charge of the match. Ranatunga was found guilty of misconduct under the terms of the ICC code of conduct, handed a six-match ban, suspended for a year, and fined 75 per cent of his match fee.

However, afterwards, van der Merwe, in a statement of remarkable frankness and considerable feeling, made it clear that he had been tied up by the arguments of Ranatunga's lawyers, who won an adjournment at the original hearing on Tuesday and argued restraint of trade when it resumed yesterday.

"This code was drawn up by cricketers, to be administered by cricketers," van der Merwe said. "It was a great disappointment, and a very complicated matter, to find that legal people were in prominence at this hearing. I have no doubt the ICC will take heed of this hearing, and the way it had to be conducted. This little green book will find a lot of amendments in the next edition.

"The charge against Ranatunga was proved. He violated clause one of the code of conduct, that he did not at all times maintain the spirit of the game, besides the laws. Should he be guilty of further violations of the code, then naturally the suspension will come into play, as well as whatever sanctions he incurs.

"Ranatunga expressed regret at the embarrassment he caused his opponents, the public, and the officials, and has been warned that his every action will be very closely monitored over the next twelve months. It may not be easy for whoever does the match referee's job in the next year, but it is incumbent upon every official to do whatever he considers necessary, or some times only what is possible.

"This unfortunate happening has cost Ranatunga a great deal in the popularity stakes and respect. I told him that both he and I will lose by this decision."

Such openness from an official of the ICC is rare and reflected the frustration felt by van der Merwe, which was shared by the England team. Alec Stewart, the captain, and Graeme Hick, who was batting when Ranatunga tried to take his players off, attended the hearing but were required for only 20 minutes as the Sri Lankan legal team presented their case.



Ranatunga: misconduct

Other cricketing nations are fed-up with the antics of the Sri Lankans and their manipulative and abrasive captain. Australia will point out that Ian Healy was banned for two matches in South Africa two years ago, for throwing his bat away after he had left the field. England will recall that Chris Lewis was fined A$1,600 (£600) for "sending off" Craig McDermott in a Test match at Adelaide four years ago.

Now the world has seen Ranatunga try to lead his team off, prod an umpire in the chest, swear at match officials and tell one of them: "I'm in charge of this game." If an ICC match referee cannot enforce the code of conduct when the evidence is so overwhelming, the constitution needs to be ripped up, and will be.

As for the Sri Lankans, they have disgraced themselves with their flagrant disregard for the game, and those who guard it. Their lawyers may have got the captain off the hook this time, but his reputation has gone. Throughout cricket, his name is mud.